4-596 (Rev. 3-20-79)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FOIA # 65299
DOCID: 34636567

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Declassified Case:
NW# 65299 Date:
05-15-2024

65-HQ-1168-1

65- HQ-1168
SERIALS 1-18
SECTION 1

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FBIHQ INVESTIGATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FILES

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NW 65226
DocId:34636567
Page 1

65-128

807 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, N. Y.

September 28, 1938

Major W. C. DeWare,
General Staff Corps,
Headquarters Second Corps Area,
Governors Island, N. Y.

55768

Dear Major:

I wish to thank you for your letter of September 24, 1938, in which you enclosed a unsigned letter dated June 21, 1938, addressed to the Secretary of War, regarding alleged espionage activities on the part of one W. R. Davis.

This matter will receive appropriate attention at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

cc:Bureau

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

65-1168-1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 29 1938 A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE | FILE

[redacted]

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 65-128 FMcV

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK CITY	1/19/39	1/3,4,10,13/39	W. Y. HUMPHREYS

TITLE

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS

William DAVIS

CHARACTER OF CASE

ESPIONAGE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject is President of DAVIS AND COMPANY, New York City, a Nevada corporation, and has an interest in various other oil companies in the United States and other countries. He has been a promoter mainly in the petroleum industry for the past twenty years. Subject and associates are suspected of conspiracy and fraud in connection with their activity in the petroleum industry, resulting in various law suits. Press reports state DAVIS AND COMPANY acting as Agent for Mexico in sale of expropriated oil to Germany. Subject apparently very wealthy and said to reside in a magnificent home in Scarsdale, New York. He is unknown to Naval Intelligence, New York City.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/20/76 BY SP1 CLK/STAC

- P -

DETAILS:

This report is predicated upon a letter received on September 24, 1938 from W. C. DeWARE, Major, General Staff Corps, Asst. A. C. of S., G-2, which letter enclosed an anonymous letter dated June 21, 1938, addressed to the Secretary of War, Washington, D. C. This letter suggested that a check be made on the activities of W. R. DAVIS, particularly of his past and present activities covered by his oil purchases in Mexico on behalf of the Nazis. Reference was made to the NEW YORK TIMES of June 16. It was stated

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Special Agent in Charge

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

65-1168 - 2

JAN 24 1939

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3 - New York

JAN 23 P.M.

ONE - HARRO

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

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in this letter that if a check was made into this company and the employees, a "sply-ring of first magnitude!" would be found.

Lieutenant Commander GRAHAM, of the Naval Intelligence, New York City, caused a search of his records to be made, but no information was found therein concerning W. R. DAVIS or DAVIS AND COMPANY. Lieutenant GRAHAM had never heard of DAVIS or his activities.

At the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, no record could be located of subject DAVIS.

Inquiry was made by the writer at Dun and Bradstreet's, New York City. The writer was advised that they had a report on WILLIAM R. DAVIS and DAVIS AND COMPANY, but that this report was highly confidential and would not be submitted in writing to anyone; that as a matter of fact, this report would not be exhibited to anyone unless it was absolutely certain that the same would be held in strictest confidence. They were informed, of course, that the information in this report would be so held. The report was then examined by the writer and the following information obtained therefrom. The report was dated November 22, 1938. WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS is fifty-one years of age, married, and was born in Alabama of English descent. For a time he was employed by the Southern Railroad Company, but for the past twenty years or more his activities have been mainly as a promoter, largely in the petroleum industry. However, his activities have reached into other fields. In 1921 or 1922, he started as an oil producer near Shawnee, Seminole County, Oklahoma. His operations, however, were unsuccessful, and numerous judgments were obtained against him. One judgment in the amount of $11,132, was obtained in favor of the International Supply Company, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was still alive on October 2, 1938. In 1932 DAVIS was instrumental in forming the MALCONA PETROLEUM COMPANY, INC., in the state of Delaware, with headquarters at Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1923 he formed the DAVIS MALCONA CORPORATION, also of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Within a short time claims were entered against this company, and a receiver was appointed in August, 1924. The property was sold at a Sheriff's Sale on March 18, 1925 for $12,500. Of this, the creditors received very little. W. R. DAVIS was found guilty of fraud, gross neglect, breach of trust, and willful, fraudulent mismanagement as President of the company, and a judgment was returned against him for $169,123 in favor of WILFRED H. CUNNINGHAM, for the stockholders of the company.

In 1938 action was brought in the New York State Court

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by the Pennsylvania company against W. R. DAVIS, et al, for insurance on lives and granting annuities as trustee's executor. Plaintiffs alleged defendants entered into conspiracy to defraud the plaintiffs out of their property, represented by the judgment obtained in Oklahoma in the amount of $169,123. An injunction was asked to enjoin DAVIS and DAVIS AND COMPANY from moving any property out of the state of New York. An attempt was made to obtain title to DAVIS' estate in Scarsdale, New York. A temporary injunction was granted. (1) In 1923 or 1924, Davis entered the employ of the British-Mexican Petroleum Company, Ltd., of London, England, and was active in crude oil purchasing in the mid-continental field. Later this firm organized two subsidiaries--the Crusader Oil Company, and the Crusader Pipe Line Company. DAVIS became President and General Manager of these companies. About the same time he organized two companies of his own, the Crusader Oil Producing Company, and the Crusader Pipe Line Company of Louisiana. Shortly after forming the latter concerns, DAVIS resigned from the British-Mexican organization, and devoted his time to his own companies, adding thereto a new company, the Crusader Company, Incorporated, in which certain outsiders had an interest.

In June, 1925, DAVIS resigned from the Crusader Company, Incorporated, and from the Crusader Oil Producing Company. On September 23, 1927, the last-named company filed suit against DAVIS in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, for $97,465, alleged cash advanced DAVIS. Judgment for $83,465 was returned against DAVIS. An appeal was made by DAVIS and the judgment was reversed. It is rumored that a settlement was later made by DAVIS.

In 1925 DAVIS was instrumental in organizing the Crusader Pipe Line Company of Arkansas, financed by outside capital, the purpose of which was to lay 150 miles of pipe line from Smakover, Arkansas to Vidalia, Mo. $700 was paid in, but the line cost more. The continental supply company foreclosed their mortgage on this property and sold it for $2,500,000. A judgment entered at Shreveport, Louisiana was for $3,857,307.

Between 1925 and 1928 numerous judgments against DAVIS were entered in Shreveport, Louisiana. (1) Most of these have been outlawed by the statute of limitations.

During the next four years, DAVIS was active in other promotions with little success. (1) He set up in Boston, Massachusetts as a stock broker, abandoned this after a short time, and returned to the oil business, forming the Massachusetts corporation known

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as DAVIS AND COMPANY. He later organized the Foreign Oil Company, a Massachusetts corporation, which company was later succeeded by the Maine corporation of the same name. This corporation soon expanded, and through subsidiaries produced crude oil in Mexico, operated a refinery at Hamburg, Germany, and distributed products in Europe. The foreign corporation discontinued and liquidated early in 1936. The assets were sold to the Crusader Petroleum Industries, Ltd., a British corporation.

On June 29, 1938, action was brought in the English court, King's Bench Division, before Justice Lewis, against the Foreign Oil Company, W. R. DAVIS as President, and against the Crusader Petroleum Industries, Ltd., and its managing director, HENRY W. WILSON. The plaintiffs were Carl Frederick GLAD, and AKTIESELSKABET GICA (in liquidation), both of Copenhagen. The plaintiffs alleged conspiracy to cheat. DAVIS and WILSON were both found guilty and damages awarded.

When DAVIS AND COMPANY, INC. (Nevada) was organized, it carried experimental development operations which finally formed two subsidiaries, both wholly owned. They were the Texas Crusader Oil, Incorporated, and Louisiana Crusader Oil, Incorporated. Later three other companies became owned. They were the California Crusader Petroleum, Incorporated, the Meraux Terminal Corporation, and Davcom, S. A.

About July, 1937 the purchase was made of the property of Fleethorn Oil Corporation by DAVIS and his associates. The Crusader Petroleum, Inc., a new company, was chartered. LANGDON DEARBORN was Vice President and General Manager of the corporation. DAVIS at this time was interested in a large foreign organization headed by the PARENT PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD., London, England.

The following is the alignment of the various companies as they existed up to June 30, 1938 according to LANGDON DEARBORN. He gave this information in his capacity as Vice President and General Manager of DAVIS AND COMPANY, INC. This information was later confirmed by PIERCE D. WATSON, who has succeeded DEARBORN as Vice President and General Manager of DAVIS AND COMPANY, INC.

1. PARENT PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD., London, England, was top company with four directly-owned subsidiaries. They were Crusader Petroleum, Inc., of New York City and Ada, Oklahoma, in which DAVIS AND COMPANY, INC. was a minority stockholder.

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2. CRUSADER PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD., London, England,
3. IRISH NATIONAL REFINERIES, LTD., of London, England, and Dublin, Ireland.
4. TUSPAN OIL COMPANY, of Tampico, Mexico.

The CRUSADER PETROLEUM, INC., in turn had four subsidiaries,

1. FLEETHORN OIL CORPORATION
2. EUROMEX OIL COMPANY, INC.
3. TEXAS CRUSADER OIL, INC.
4. LOUISIANA CRUSADER OIL, INC.

Likewise, CRUSADER PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD. also had two subsidiaries, EUROPAISCHE TANKLAGER AND TRANSPORT A.G., which operated a refinery at Hamburg, Germany, and SVENSKA A.G., the name of which has been changed to SKANDA-TANK A.G. This company has marketing equipment in Sweden.

DAVIS AND COMPANY, INC. was neither a subsidiary or owner of any of the above companies, but did have a minority interest in the CRUSADER PETROLEUM, INC. and in some way had interest in the PARENT PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD, besides having three subsidiaries of its own; namely, CALIFORNIA CRUSADER PETROLEUM, INC., MERAUX TERMINAL CORPORATION; and the DAVCOM, S.A.

The MERAUX TERMINAL CORPORATION operates an oil storage business at MERAUX, LOUISIANA.

The DAVCOM, S.A. a Mexican corporation, is in charge of Mexican operations of this organization. It is reported to buy petroleum equipment in Germany, selling the same in Mexico, and also to buy petroleum products in Mexico for export.

The CALIFORNIA CRUSADER PETROLEUM, INC. holds leases on undeveloped oil lands in California.

DAVIS' principal connection, however, is in DAVIS AND COMPANY, INC., a Nevada corporation, of which he is President. Full information concerning this corporation has been declined. Press reports dated July 6, 1938 state that the Mexican government has contracted to sell to DAVIS AND COMPANY $10,000,000 worth of oil to Germany, same to be paid 40 per cent cash and 60 per cent products. DAVIS is stated to be in receipt of a very large income.

Up until the year 1931 DAVIS' companies operated on small

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capital and were unsuccessful. His activities were at times severely criticized.

A copy of the NEW YORK TIMES for June 16, 1938 was examined by the writer, and it was noticed that on page 10, column 1, there appeared an article by FRANK L. KLUCKHORN, dated at Mexico City, June 13, 1938. It was stated in this newspaper article that the Mexican Government had completed a deal for the sale of 10,000,000 barrels of oil, largely expropriated United States and British oil, during the next six months, in which 60 per cent of payment will be obtained in German materials and machinery. In the last several years the United States has sold all the machinery that Mexico bought. DAVIS AND COMPANY, of New York, are acting as Mexican government agents in this deal, and will obtain a 5 per cent commission. The oil is to be paid for in 40 per cent cash, and the rest in German machinery. The article stated that the oil is presumably for the Nazi markets. The article further stated that no provision is made in this deal for the amortization of United States and British Oil properties, although President LAZARO CARDENAS has offered to pay for them with part of the oil shipped. It is understood that DAVIS AND COMPANY is using this means to liquidate a block of marks, its interests have in Germany. During the next six months Mexico can get 2,000,000 barrels of oil from wells it is operating before expropriation of the remaining 8,000,000.

In an attempt to obtain further information concerning DAVIS AND COMPANY, inquiry was made at the American Petroleum Institute, Rockefeller Center, New York. It was ascertained here, after research, that neither W. R. DAVIS nor DAVIS AND COMPANY are members of the American Petroleum Institute, and no information was available concerning them.

It had been previously ascertained that DAVIS AND COMPANY maintained offices at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. Inquiry was made at the renting offices, 50 Rockefeller Plaza in an attempt to obtain information concerning DAVIS and his company. The lease, however, was not signed by DAVIS, but was signed by P. B. Watson, as Vice President, who gave his address as 33 Cherry Street, Floral Park, Long Island, and W. W. Van Allen, as Assistant Secretary, who gave no address. DAVIS AND COMPANY had been in the building since 1934, and apparently pay their rent on time and have a good reputation with the renting office.

An examination was made by the writer of the court records in the Clerk's Office of the Supreme Court, State of New York. It was ascertained that the law suit previously mentioned in this report was filed on March 11, 1930 by the Pennsylvania company for insurance on lives and granting annuities, against WILLIAM R. DAVIS, DAVIS AND COMPANY, and others, file number 5449. The defendants' attorneys are KAUFFMAN, TUTTLE, and McCARTHY.

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The following are the officers of DAVIS AND COMPANY, the Nevada corporation, as reflected by the court records:

WILLIAM R. DAVIS, President
PIERCE D. WATSON, Vice President and General Manager
AUSTIN B. TAYLOR, Vice President
HENRY W. WILSON, Vice President
KARL F. vonCLEMM, Vice President
N. V. HANSELL, Vice President
JAMES LEE KAUFFMAN, Secretary
W. W. vanALLEN, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary.
MORRIS GEYE, Assistant Treasurer.

These court records reveal that WILLIAM R. DAVIS resides at Two Cooper Road, Scarsdale, New York, and it is stated that this is a magnificent residence. It appears that difficulty was had in obtaining service on DAVIS at his home.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

NEW YORK OFFICE:

Will contact the Securities and Exchange Commission for any information they might have on W. R. DAVIS, or DAVIS AND COMPANY.

At SCARSDALE, NEW YORK, will obtain the credit record of W. R. DAVIS.

- PENDING -

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New Orleans, La.
Jan. 27, 1939.

SEW:WH
62-1000

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: [redacted] - Informant;
DISSEMINATION OF PROPAGANDA.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter of the New Orleans Division to the Bureau dated December 21, 1938, pertaining to information furnished by [redacted] which appeared to involve the act approved June 8, 1938 (Public - 583 - 75th Congress, 3rd Session) an act relating to dissemination of propaganda in the United States and for other purposes.

[redacted] telephoned the New Orleans Division on December 30, 1938 to advise the STEAMER CHARLES RACINE was supposed to arrive in New Orleans December 27, 1938 to lift 119,000 barrels of distillate at the Meraux Terminals, Meraux, La., for Hamburg, Germany; that the Douglas Public Service Corpn., Inc., had, the previous week, received an order from the First National Bank of Boston for this distillate, the order being cancelled December 28, 1938 and renewed December 30, 1938 for January 3, 1939.

[redacted], during this conversation, said the same steamer was due January 2, 1939with 127,500 barrels of distillate being shipped from Tampico, Mexico, which of course, as [redacted] understood, was to be deposited at the Meraux Terminals at Meraux, La. He said he had inquired of MR. MICHAEL A. DONNELLY, Vice President of the Meraux Terminal Corporation, as to the reason for handling distillate in this fashion, and DONNELLY merely replied: "I'm only taking orders".

RECORDED & INDEXED

65-1168-3

[redacted] said he would ascertain if possible the identity of the consignor of the distillate shipment from Mexico, as well as that of the consignee of the shipment from the Meraux Terminals, Meraux, La., to Hamburg, Germany.

On January 14, 1939 [redacted] advised by telephone the distillage had just arrived from Mexico, having been shipped by DAVIS & COMPANY to DAVIS & COMPANY, care of Meraux Terminal Corporation. The outgoing cargo was shipped by the Meraux Terminal Corporation to the First National Bank of Boston, Boston, Mass., order notify, care of EURO TANK COMPANY, Hamburg, Germany. On the date [redacted] furnished this last information the vessel had not left for Germany because of certain difficulty encountered with the U. S. Customs office in New Orleans concerning the quality of the distillate, and a bond had been required of the vessel owners in view of this difficulty.

INFORMATION CONTAINED
4-20-98 SP alc/lm

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This information is furnished the Bureau for such disposition as is considered appropriate.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Hood,
Special Agent in Charge.

607 United States Court House
Foley Square
New York, New York

NYM:FMcV
65-128

January 20, 1939

Postmaster
Scarsdale, New York

Re; WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS
ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

In connection with an official investigation being conducted by this office, it is requested that a thirty-day mail cover be placed on the mail of W. R. Davis, Two Cooper Road.

In transmitting tracings to this office, please refer to our file number 65-128.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY
Special Agent in Charge

cc Bureau

65-1168

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 24 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE

[redacted]
4-27-98 BY SP2 [illegible]

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DocId:34636567 Page 12

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

FILE NO. 65-53 EFK

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW ORLEANS, LA.	4/3/39	3/13-16&24/39	S. M. WOLF

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS	ESPIONAGE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] reports a personal visit on him by WILLIAM LATIMER GRAY, First National Bank of Boston on February 13, 1939, which, [redacted] believes, was for the purpose of getting information about WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS and DAVIS & COMPANY. He said GRAY believed A. JOHNSON & CO., New York City, is the real owner of oil being shipped from Tampico, Mexico and DAVIS & COMPANY merely the borrower, and the former company owns MERAUX TERMINAL CORPORATION.

R.U.C.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

REFERENCE: Letter of New York Division dated 3/6/39.

DETAILS: At New Orleans, La.

[redacted] advised of having been visited February 13, 1939 by MR. WILLIAM LATIMER GRAY, Vice-President, First National Bank of Boston, and though GRAY professed to know if he could get a better type of warehouse receipt in connection with distillate being shipped in this matter, [redacted] telling him he could get it from the owner, [redacted] was of the opinion GRAY sought information about WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS.

MR. GRAY told [redacted] he believed A. JOHNSON & COMPANY, R.K.O. Bldg., 270 6th Avenue, New York City, are the real owners of the cargo being shipped from Tampico, Mexico and DAVIS & COMPANY are the borrowers. He said the real reason the First National Bank of Boston is financing in connection with these

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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65-1168-4

APR 10 1939

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2 - Boston
2 - New Orleans

Ref to Inv. Rpt. dt 6/5/39 EFK

CC Mr. Quinn Tamm 12-3-40 J.B.F.

APR 8 1939 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

APR 8 1939 P.M.

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

ONE

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

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shipments is because they have frozen marks in Germany. GRAY believed A. JOHNSON & COMPANY owns MERAUX TERMINAL CORPORATION. [redacted] desired MR. GRAY be not advised of the information he has given.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

[redacted] said all cargoes from Tampico have been shipped from MERAUX TERMINAL CORPORATION to MERAUX TERMINAL CORPORATION, Meraux, Louisiana, except a shipment of 62,706 barrels which arrived February 28, 1939 on the Oljaren. That shipment was sent to A. JOHNSON & COMPANY, care of the MERAUX TERMINAL CORPORATION, Meraux, Louisiana and his company refused to issue warehouse receipts to MERAUX TERMINAL CORPORATION on this shipment. When contact was had with A. JOHNSON & COMPANY, HAROLD HEDSTROM of that company wrote [redacted] (indicating letter copies for DAVIS & COMPANY) to issue the receipts in the name of the FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON.

(C)

[redacted] telephoned March 16, 1939 that an individual by the name of J. A. HANSELL was at that time signing for MERAUX TERMINAL CORPORATION, and he understood he was "pinchhitting" for a clerk who was supposed to be ill. He recalled having met an N. V. HANSELL purported to be of DAVIS & COMPANY.

Report copies are designated for the Boston Division as of possible assistance should the New York Division desire investigation at the First National Bank of Boston.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE DIVISION OF ORIGIN-

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JLD:MB
65-128

New York, N.Y.

March 6, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, La.

RE: WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS
ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter of February 28, 1939 addressed to your office, setting out information in connection with William Rhodes Davis, who is under investigation by this office.

In accordance with the request of the Bureau, there is transmitted herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent W. Y. Humphreys, dated at New York City, January 19, 1939, entitled as above.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge

Encl. 1

cc Bureau

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-5-78 BY SP4 alw/mh

65-1168
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 7 1939
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
ONE

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 15

AC:JHK

~~65-1163~~ 18
~~65-1163~~ 2
RECORDED 65-1163-3

February 28, 1939

55767

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letters to the Bureau dated December 21, 1938 and January 27, 1939, in connection with the case entitled [redacted], Informant; Examination of Propaganda," copies of which letters were furnished to the State Department for appropriate attention and two copies of which are transmitted herewith to the New York Field Division.

The New York Field Division at the present time has under investigation a case entitled "William Rhodes Davis, Espionage," the subject of which is the president of Davis and Company of New York City, a Nevada corporation which has an interest in various oil companies in the United States and other countries. It is alleged that Davis has been a promoter mainly in the petroleum industry for the past twenty years and is acquainted with his associates of conspiracy and fraud in connection with their activities in the petroleum industry. Newspaper reports have indicated that Davis and Company is acting as the agent of Mexico in the sale of expropriated oil to Germany. Davis is alleged to be wealthy and to reside in a magnificent home in Scarsdale, New York.

It would appear from a perusal of the report of Special Agent E. I. Humphreys, dated January 19, 1939, at New York City, copies of which should be furnished to the New Orleans Field Division by the New York Field Division, that the Davis and Company referred to therein may be identical with the Davis and Company referred to in the letters of reference from the New Orleans Field Division. Any additional information received in this case should be reported promptly to the Bureau for referral to the State Department.

Copies of the report of Special Agent Humphreys and of the letters from the New Orleans office have also been furnished to the Office of Naval Intelligence and G-2 of the Military Intelligence.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

2 - New York (with enclosures)

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ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-1163-1

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AC:JHK
~~65-1168-2~~
~~61-7583-18~~
65-1168-3

February 28, 1939

RECORDED

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my previous letter to you dated January 6, 1939, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Field Division of this Bureau, containing information furnished by

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

There are transmitted herewith a copy of a letter from the Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Field Division of this Bureau dated January 27, 1939, containing additional information received from FOIA(b)(7) - (D) and a copy of the report of Special Agent E. Y. Humphreys, dated January 19, 1939, at New York City, containing information relative to William Rhodes Davis, the president of Davis and Company, which company may be identical with the Davis and Company referred to in the letter from the New Orleans Field Division dated January 27, 1939, a copy of which as indicated above is furnished herewith.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. C. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Quinn

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ORIGINAL FILED IN 61-7583-18

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DocId:34636567 Page 17

AC:JHK
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~~61-7583-18~~
65-111(P-3

February 28, 1939 BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

RECORDED

Colonel E. R. Warner McCabe
Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel McCabe:

There is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent W. Y. Humphreys, dated January 19, 1939, at New York City, in the case entitled "William Rhodes Davis, Espionage." There are also transmitted herewith two copies each of letters from the New Orleans Field Division of this Bureau dated December 21, 1938, and January 27, 1939, containing information obtained from

[redacted]

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

It will be noted that [redacted] refers to the activities of Davis and Company, which company may be identical with the Davis and Company referred to in the report of reference of Special Agent W. Y. Humphreys.

Copies of these letters and a copy of the report of Special Agent Humphreys were furnished to the State Department for appropriate attention.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coby
Mr. Cro
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxwth
Mr. Glav
Mr. Marb
Mr. Leste
Mr. McInt
Mr. Nichol
Mr. Q. Tam
Ms. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-1113-18

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 18

607 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, N. Y.

WYH:PS
65-128

April 10, 1939.

Mr. B. J. Dooley,
Superintendent, U. S. Post Office,
Rockefeller Centre Branch,
1250 Sixth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Re: WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS.
Espionage.

Dear Sir:

In connection with an official investigation being conducted by this office, it is requested that a thirty day cover be placed upon the mail of

Mr. WILLIAM R. DAVIS of DAVIS & CO.,
30 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York City.

In communicating with this office, please refer to our file number 65-128.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY
Special Agent in Charge

cc: Bureau

65-1168-4X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 11 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DIVISION ONE
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 4-21-98 BY SP2 alc/mb

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 19

JEL:maw
65-1168-4

June 5, 1939

RECORDED

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent S. M. Wolf, dated April 3, 1939, at New Orleans, Louisiana, in connection with the case entitled "William Rhodes Davis, Espionage."

A copy of this report has also been furnished to Rear Admiral R. S. Holmes, Director, Naval Intelligence, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. and Colonel E. R. Warner McCabe, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

_____

[illegible] COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
[illegible]
FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-21-98 BY SP2 alc/tm

FBI - [illegible] BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[illegible] D.

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DocId:34636567 Page 20

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY NY FILE NO. 65-128 aobs

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK CITY	5/25/39	5/12/39	W. Y. HUMPHREYS.

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS.	ESPIONAGE.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No record of W. R. Davis or Davis & Company at the SEC, New York City. No record of subject at the Credit Bureau, White Plains, N.Y. Results of mail cover set out. Investigation thus far revealed subject interested in Mexican Oil and shipment of same to Germany but no evidence of espionage developed.

C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent W. Y. Humphreys, New York, N.Y., dated January 19, 1939.

DETAILS:

Inquiry made at the Westchester Credit and Collection Bureau, 17 East Post Road, White Plains, New York, revealed that they had no record of WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		65-1168-5	MAY 31 1939

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

5 Bureau
3 N.York
1 cc Mc Ranie 12/27/40 SAC

MAY 29 A.M

[redacted]

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

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At New York City, appropriate inquiry was made at the offices of the Securities Exchange Commission. They had no information concerning subject or his firm, DAVIS & COMPANY.

On January 20, 1939, a thirty day mail cover was placed upon the mail of subject Davis at his residence, #2 Cooper Road, Scarsdale, New York. On March 6, 1939 a letter was received from Mr. WALTER M. DRURY, Postmaster, at Scarsdale, who stated that all the time the mail cover was in effect there was no mail being received at the subject's Cooper Road address, with the exception of advertisements and magazines. The letter further stated that the carrier thought the mail was being delivered to Davis at his business address in New York City, therefore, on April 10, 1939, a thirty day mail cover was placed upon the mail of WILLIAM R. DAVIS of 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

The following are the results of this mail cover:-

1. Letter addressed to MR. WILLIAM R. DAVIS
DAVIS CO. INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Washington Irving Country Club, Inc.
Tarrytown on Hudson, New York.

Postmarked: North Tarrytown, May 15, 6:30 P.M., 1939.

-

2. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY.

Return address: Sixth floor,
666-Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Postmarked: Grand Central Annex, May 15, 7:30 PM 1939.

-

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3. Letter addressed to MESSRS. DAVIS & COMPANY, INCORPORATED
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA,
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Crusader Petroleum Industries, Ltd.
Brettenham House
Lancaster Place
Strand, London, W.C. 2

Postmarked: London, W.C.
7:15 P.M.
9 May 1939.

-

4. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS (Per SS Normandie)
MESSRS. DAVIS & COMPANY, INCORPORATED
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Crusader Petroleum Industries Ltd.
Brettenham House.

Postmarked London, W.C., 6:15 P.M.,
8 May, 1939.

-

5. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY

via SS. Bremen.

(Originally addressed to Mr. W.R. Davis at Dorchester Hotel, London, though which address line was drawn.)

Return address: DAVIS & COMPANY, INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK NY.

Postmarked: New York, N.Y. 4,
Mar. 28, 8:30 PM, 1939.

-

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6. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS,
c/o DAVIS & COMPANY INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

Return address: Walter A. Jones
Hotel Mayflower
Washington, D. C.

Postmarked: Washington, D. C.
Apr. 17, 5:30 P.M.,
1939.

-

7. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
DAVIS & CO. INC.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y.

Return address: Headquarters
Culver Military Academy
Culver, Indiana.

Postmarked: Culver, Ind.
April 11, 2 P.M., 1939.

-

8. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
DAVIS & CO.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: The Biltmore
Madison & Vanderbilt Aves.
Forty-Third and Forty-Fourth St.
New York, N.Y.

Postmarked New York, Apr. 12, 1939, N.Y.

-

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9. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS,
DAVIS & COMPANY, INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Davis & Company, Incorporated,
30 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York, N.Y.

Postmarked: Wichita, Kans., April 12, 6 PM,
1939.

-

10. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS,
c/o DAVIS & COMPANY, INCORPORATED,
30 ROCKEFELIER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Davis & Company, Incorporated,
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y.

Postmarked: Wichita, Apr. 11, 6 PM, 1939,
Kans.

-

11. Letter postmarked Houston, Apr. 12, 12:30 PM, Texas.

Return address: Austin B. Taylor
1002 Esperon Bldg.
Houston, Texas.

4

Addressed as follows: FIRST CLASS MAIL
Correo Aereo via Air Mail.

MR. W. R. DAVIS,
c/o DAVIS and COMPANY, INCORPORATED,
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA,
NEW YORK, N.Y.

PERSONAL

-

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12. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Hotel Barclay, NY
Western Union Telegraph Co. Inc.

Postmarked: Grand Central Annex, NY-5,
April 12, 5 PM, 1939.

-

13. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY.

Return address: Cabot, Cabot & Forbes, Inc.
60 State Street
Boston, Mass.

Postmarked: Boston, Mass., April 12, 6 PM,
1939.

-

14. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Return address: Quartermaster,
Culver Military Academy,
Culver, Indiana.

Postmarked: Culver, Ind., April 11, 6 PM,
1939.

-

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15. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY

PERSONAL

Return address: Ing. Ed. Prido y Souza
Ambrer 33
Mexico, D.F.

This letter was marked "CORREO AEREO AIR MAIL".

Postmarked - (illegible).

-

16. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Hardy & Co.
Berlin.

Postmarked Berlin W.
6 4 . 39
8

-

17. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS & CO. INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA,
6th AVE. AT 50th ST.
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address David E.B. Jones
Hotel Aberdeen
17-19-21 W. 32nd St.
New York City.

Postmarked New York, N.Y. 5,
Apr. 17, 10 AM, 1939.

-

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18. Letter addressed to W.R. DAVIS,
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Petroleum Heat & Power Co. Inc.
700 S. Columbus Ave.
Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Postmarked Bronx Cent. Annex, NY-3
Apr. 18, 6:30 PM
1939.

-

19. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS, ESQ.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY
U.S.A.

In the left hand corner on the same line as that on which the addressee's name appears is written the following: Reexpedie Ph R
l'Hotel Meurice
Paris

This letter was sent via Air Mail.
No return name or address.

Postmark - 5 Apr '39
Shepherds Hotel
Cairo, Egypt.

-

20. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
SUITE 5438
NEW YORK CITY.

Return address: PEARL DAVIS
20 ARGYLE PLACE
BRONXVILLE, N.Y.

Postmark illegible.

-

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21. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS & COMPANY INC.
ROOM 5440
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY.

In the left hand corner of this envelope, on the same line as addressee's name appears is the following: Hotel Holon, Berlin, Nachseivden.

Return address: The Mir. Tex. Oil Company
517 Baltimore Trust Bldg.
Baltimore, Md.

No postmark. -

22. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY

Return address S. D. BAKER
Apartado 398, Tampico Tamps,
Mexico.

Postmarked Servicio, 18 Apr, Tampico. Aereo Air Mail.

-

23. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
DAVIS & CO.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY.

Return address W.H.F. MILLAR
Lawyer
1st National Bank Building
Chicago, Ill.

Postmarked Chic. Ill., Apr. 21, 5:30 PM, 1939.
Ciopo Annex.

AIR MAIL

-

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24. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Return address: Cadillac Automobile Company of Boston
808 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

Postmark Boston, Mass., Apr. 21, 19 PM, 1939.

-

25. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

Return address Army & Navy Club
Manila
W.J. Millard.

-

26. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

Return address Mrs. Frances Potter Haveer
2519 Maple Ave
Dallas, Tex.

Postmarked Dallas, Texas, Apr. 20/39.

-

27. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKE PLAZA

Return address First Nat'l Bank, Boston
Boston, Mass.

Postmarked Boston, Mass.
4/22 7 PM

-

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28. Letter addressed to W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKE. PLAZA

Return address First National Bank, Boston,
Boston, Mass.

Postmarked Boston, Mass.,
4/22/39.

-

29. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address Reforma Travel
Hotel Reform
Mex. D.F.

Corres Aereo

Air Mail.

-

30. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS & COMPANY
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
6th AVE. AT 50th ST.
NEW YORK CITY
N.Y.

Postmark NY, NY
4/23 10 PM

Return address David W. Jones
17 W. 32.

-

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31. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Fafy & Company
65 Franklin Street
Boston, Mass.

Postmarked Boston, Mass.
4/22 - 3 PM.

32. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS & COMPANY, INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

Return address; W.A.J.
The Mayflower
Connecticut Ave. & DeSales St.
Washington, D.C.

Postmarked Washington, D.C.
Apr. 23, 9 PM, 1939.

33. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

Return address 87 Milk St., Room 46
Poston.

Postmark Boston, Apr 20, 6 PM, Mass.

34. Letter addressed to WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Sent AIR MAIL.
Postmark Berlin W
12.4.39.18 19
81

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34. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Petroleum Heat & Power Co. Inc.
700 S. Columbus Av
Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Postmark: Bronx Cent. Annex - NY 3
Apr 20, 5:30 PM, 1939.

35. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS, ESQ.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Rederiaktie Bolaget Nordstsernan,
Stockholm - 7

Postmark: Stockholm
11.4.39.18-20
*

36. Letter addressed to W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Petroleum Heat & Power Co. Inc.
700 S. Columbus Ave.
Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Postmark: Bronx Central Annex
Apr 20, 5:30 PM
1939

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37. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
DAVIS & CO. INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

Return address: Office of the Surgeon
Culver Military Academy
Culver, Indiana.

Postmark Culver, Ind., Apr 19,
2 PM, 1939.

38. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK
(U.S.A.)

Return address: Roma via Nicola Martelli N. 40

Telefono 871-243
Stampa

Postmarked Roma, 14-15, 1A-IV,
Ferrovia.

39. Letter addressed to MR. WILLIAM R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address Mrs. Margaret Sanger
576 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Postmarked Grand Central Annex
Apr 24, 11 PM, 1939.

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40. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Budd
590-Fifth Avenue
New York

Postmark Mad. Sq. Sta.
Apr. 24, 6:30 PM,
1939.

41. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
3440
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.
U.S.A.

"Via SS. Bremen" appears in the upper lefthand corner - no return name or address.

Postmarked London W L
6:15 PM,
27 Apr, 1939, B.

42. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
MESSRS DAVIS & COMPANY INCORPORATED
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address H. W. Wilson
Federated Petroleum Securities Limited
Brettenham House
Lancaster Place
Strand WC 2
London.

Postmarked London W.C., 6:15 PM
28 Apr, 1939, B.

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43. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. JONES
Room 5440
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y.

Return address Via SS. Bremen
H. W. Wilson
Brettenham House
Lancaster Place
Strand W.C. 2
London.

Postmark London, W.C.
6:15 PM
28 Apr
1939
B

44. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS, ESQ.
MESSRS. DAVIS & CO.
ROCKEFELLER CENTRE
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address H. C. DeRoth
36 Cornhill
London, E.C. 3

Per SS. Normandie sailing from Southampton.

Postmark London E.C., 12:45 PM,
26 Apr, 1939 F.

45. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS & COMPANY INCORPORATED
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address The First National Bank of Boston
Boston, Massachusetts.

Postmark Boston, Apr. 29th, 11:30
PM, 1939 Mass.

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46. Letter addressed to MR. WILLIAM R. DAVIS
30 ROCK PLAZA
NEW YORK

Reverse – William S. Blizzard
217 Broadway
New York

Postmark Church St. Annex, NY 20,
May 1, 6 PM, 1939

47. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS, ESQ.
30, ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

SS. Normandie.

Return address Dusch hu flpost nach D Havre
Per Sviou

On flap Berlin W 8
Mau P2 Str. 33

Postmark Berlin W8
25-4-39

48. Letter addressed to W.R. DAVIS, ESQ.
MESSRS. DAVIS & COMPANY INCORPORATED
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK

No return address.

English postmark appears illegible.

49. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
MESSRS. DAVIS & COMPANY INCORPORATED
30, ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Postmark London, W.C., 7:15 PM
25 Apr, 1939 -8-.

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(continued)

Return address - Crusader Petroleum Industries Ltd.
Brettenham House
Lancaster Place
Strand, London, W.C. 2.

-

50. Letter addressed to MR. WILLIAM R. DAVIS
DAVIS CO. INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY

Return address Westchester Country Club
Rye, N.Y.

Postmarked May 1, 1939.

-

51 Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS & CO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
N.Y.C.

Return address Westchester Lighting Co.
1 North Broadway
White Plains, N.Y.

Postmarked May 1, 1939.

-

52.) Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
30 Rockefeller Plaza
City.

Personal.
From: Milgrim Fur Storage, Circle 7-7200
On back: 6 W. 57th St.,

Postmark May 1, 1939.

-

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53. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
DAVIS & COMPANY
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY,
NEW YORK.

Return address W.H.F. Millar
Lawyer
First National Bank Building
Chicago.

Postmark Chicago, May 1, 2 PM,
1939, Ill.

54. Letter addressed to MR. WILLIAM R. DAVIS
30 ROCK PLAZA
NEW YORK.

Return address William S. Blizzard
217 Broadway
New York.

Postmark Church St. Annex, N.Y.
May 1 - 1939
6 - PM.

55. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS,
DAVIS & COMPANY, INCORPORATED
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address The Mar-Tex Oil Company
517 Baltimore Trust Building
Baltimore, Md.

SPECIAL DELIVERY LETTER.

Postmarked Baltimore, May 5, 12 M, Md.

56. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS PERSONAL ATTENTION
W.R. DAVIS & COMPANY
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
19 NEW YORK, N.Y.

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59 (continued)

Postmark Grand Central Annex, May 2, 1 PM, 1939.

60. Letter addressed to W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address Ferris Radio Company
91 Pondfield Road
Bronxville, N.Y.

Postmark Bronxville, N.Y.
May 2, 1:30 P.M., 1939.

61. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Return address Dawcom, S.B.
Edifico Atzean
Mexico D.F.

Correo Aereo - Air Mail.

No post mark.

62. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS, PRESIDENT,
DAVIS & COMPANY
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address Phillipine Export & Import Company
630 Fifth Avenue
New York

Postmark New York, N.Y. 5
May 6, 3:30 PM, 1939.

63. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS,
c/o DAVIS & CO.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
21 NEW YORK, N.Y.

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56. (continued)

Return address: House of Representatives
Part of Congressional Record
Free.

Fred L. Crawford, ME.

Postmark not shown.

57. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
DAVIS & CO. INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Printed - 109 W. 54th Street, New York.

Postmark Church St. Annex 20
May 2, 9 PM, 1939.

58. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS & CO.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
6th AVENUE AT 50th ST.
NEW YORK CITY

Return address DAVID W. JONES
HOTEL ABERDEEN
17-19-21 West 32nd Street
New York City.

Postmark New York, N.Y. May 2, 10:30 PM,
1939.

59. Card addressed to W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY.

Return address Marwynn Company
15 East 40th Street
Room 307, N.Y.C.

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63. (continued) -

Return address UHLEMANN OPTICAL CO.
Wabash & Washington St.
Chicago, Ill.

Postmark Chicago, Ill., May 5, 1939.

64. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
6th AVE. AT 50th
NEW YORK,
N.Y.
PERSONAL

Return address David E.B. Jones
Hotel Aberdeen
17-19-21 West 32nd Street
New York City.

Postmark New York, N.Y.
May 7, 4:30 PM, 1939.

65. Letter addressed to MR. WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK.

Return address Banco Germanico Fela America
Del S V O, Sucursal En Mexico

Postmark Mexico, 3 V 39, D.F.

66. Letter addressed to MR. WILLIAM R. DAVIS
DAVIS CO.
30 ROCKEFELLOW PLAZA
NEW YORK

Return address Mrs. Reed A. Albee
7 Bay Avenue
Larchmont, N.Y.

Postmarked Church Str. Annex
May 8, 1939, 6 PM.

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67. MR. W. R. DAVIS
DAVIS & CO. INC.
30 ROCKEFELLOW PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Federated Petroleum Securities Ltd.,
Brettenham House,
Lancaster Place,
Strand W C 2
London.

Postmark London, W.C.
7:15 PM, May 2, 1939.

—

68. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLOW PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address: Wallingford, Conn.
May 8, 1939, 6 PM.

Postmark The Choate School
Wallingford, Conn.

—

69. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS & COMPANY INC.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Return address W.A.J.
The Mayflower
Connecticut Av. & DeSales St.
Wash. D.C.

Postmark May 9, 7 PM, 1939.

—

70. Letter addressed to W.R. DAVIS ESQ.
c/o DAVIS & CO.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK.

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70 (continued)

Return address – S. Kanditank
Malmo.

Postmarked Sweden (no date or time)

71. Letter addressed to MR. S. R. THORNBURG
INSTITUTIONAL FILMS
R.C.A. BUILDING
NEW YORK, N.Y.
c/o W.R. DAVIS

Return address Amott, Baker & Co.
Inc.,
150 Broadway, New York.

Postmarked New York, N.Y.
May 9 '39.

72. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
DAVIS & CO.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Return address The Biltmore
Madison & Vanderbilt Aves.
43rd St. and 44th St.
New York, N.Y.

Postmarked New York, N.Y. May 9,
1939.

73. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
W. R. DAVIS & CO.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

Sender – Culever Military Academy
Culver, Ind.

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73. (cont'd)

Postmarked Culver, Ind. 5/13 6 PM.

-

74. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
c/o DAVIS & CO.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA.

Sender W.A.J.
The Mayflower
Connecticut Ave. & DeSales St.
Wash., D.C.

Postmarked Wash. D.C.
5/14
7:30 PM.

-

75. Letter addressed to WM. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKFELLOW PLAZA
N.Y.C., N.Y.

Sender Budd
570 - 5th Ave.
N.Y.C.

Postmarked N.Y.C. N.Y. - 7
May 13, 1939
4:30 PM.

-

76. Letter addressed to W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKFELLOW PLAZA
c/o DAVIS & CO.

Sender A. W. SIMMONS
REDWOOD VALLEY,
CALIF.

AIR MAIL.

Postmarked Uklah, Calif., May 12, 1939
6:00 PM.

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 45

65-128

77. Letter addressed to W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PL.
N.Y.C.

From American Patriots, Inc.
New York Chapter,
49 W. 44th Street
N.Y.C.

Circular Matter - Sec. 562 P.L. & R.

78. Letter addressed to MR. W.R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK.

Return address Cadillac Automobile Company
of Boston,
808 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, Mass.

Postmark Boston, Mass.
5/12 - 8 PM
3¢

79. Letter addressed to MR. W. R. DAVIS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
N.Y.C.

Return address New York Telephone Co.
14 Mamaroneck Ave.
White Plains, N.Y.

Postmark Bronx Central Annex, N.Y.C.
5/12 - 7 PM 2¢

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 46

It will be noted that subject has been receiving mail from Berlin, Germany, Mexico, Egypt, Phillippine Islands, Sweden, Italy and England. This mail could be in connection with his oil interests information concerning which was previously set out in report of reference. The mail received by the subject within the United States does not appear to be particularly suspicious. All investigation conducted in this case would seem to indicate that the subject is primarily interested in oil, and there appears to be no doubt that he is obtaining oil from Mexico and shipping the same to Germany and other points via the United States, however, the investigation has not revealed any espionage activities on the part of subject. Therefore, this case is being closed upon the authority of the Special Agent in Charge, subject to being reopened at a later date in the event any information pointing toward espionage activities upon the part of the subject or his company is obtained.

CLOSED

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 47

JEL:BD
65-1168

June 6, 1939

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Colonel E. R. Turner McCabe
Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel McCabe:

For your information, I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent W. Y. Humphreys, dated May 25, 1939, at New York, New York, in connection with the case entitled "William Rhodes Davis."

A copy of this report has also been furnished to Rear Admiral R. S. Holmes, Director, Naval Intelligence, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and The Honorable, The Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Q. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Enclosure

RECORDED 65-1168-6
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 7 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4-2-98 BY SP2 dlc/tm

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 48

JEL:BD
65-1168-5

RECORDED

June 6, 1939

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent W. Y. Humphreys, dated May 25, 1939, at New York, New York, in connection with the case entitled "William Rhodes Davis."

A copy of this report has also been furnished to Rear Admiral R. S. Holmes, Director, Naval Intelligence, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and Colonel E. R. Warner McCabe, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Q. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUL 10 1939
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4-2-98 BY SP2 Calculus

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 49

65-1168
JEL:BD

June 6, 1939

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Rear Admiral R. S. Holmes
Director
Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

My dear Admiral:

For your information, I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent W. I. Humphreys, dated May 25, 1939, at New York, New York, in connection with the case entitled "William Rhodes Davis; Espionage."

A copy of this report has also been furnished to Colonel E. R. Warner McCabe, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department, Washington, D. C., and The Honorable, The Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Q. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Enclosure

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65-1168-7

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 7 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-21-98 BY SP2 alc/rs

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 50

JEL:maw
65-1168

June 5, 1939

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Colonel E. R. Warner McCabe
Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel McCabe:

For your information, I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent S. M. Wolf, dated April 3, 1939, at New Orleans, Louisiana, in connection with the case entitled "William Rhodes Davis, Espionage."

A copy of this report has also been furnished to Rear Admiral R. S. Holmes, Director, Naval Intelligence, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. and The Honorable, The Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

RECORDED

65-1168-8

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 7 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 5 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Q. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/12/98 BY SP2 Sabol/mm

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 51

JEL:maw
65-1168

June 5, 1939

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Rear Admiral R. S. Holmes
Director
Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

My dear Admiral:

For your information, I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent S. M. Wolf, dated April 3, 1939, at New Orleans, Louisiana, in connection with the case entitled "William Rhodes Davis, Espionage."

A copy of this report has also been furnished to Colonel E. R. Warner McCabe, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department, Washington, D. C. and The Honorable, The Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

RECORDED & INDEXED

65-1168-9
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 7 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INVESTIGATIONS
JUL 5 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11-22-98 BY SP2 calc/mm

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 52

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
812.6363-Davis & Co/182

June 9,1939.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of June 5,1939, addressed to the Secretary of State, enclosing a report from New Orleans, Louisiana, in connection with the case entitled "William Rhodes Davis, Espionage". Will you kindly supply this Department with copies of any other information which may be received in this case.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

George S. Messersmith
Assistant Secretary

John Edgar Hoover, Esquire,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

RECORDED

65-1168-10
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 12 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 53

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

EAT:COH

September 20, 1939

Time: 5:30 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1CLK/JAC
ON 4-20-01

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

I called SAC Jones at San Antonio in connection with W. R. Davis, who is associated with Davis & Company of New York City, and who at the time of the publicity relative to the American oil interests in Mexico, was named by the newspapers as the individual negotiating for the sale of the oil to the German Government.

I advised Mr. Jones in confidence that Davis is supposed to have received a number of messages through the German Embassy the contents of which he has discussed with some high government officials in Washington. Further, that predicated upon an alleged international agreement, Davis is supposed to have gone to Europe today to meet high officials of the German Government.

Mr. Jones was informed that you desire him to take the next plane to Mexico City for the purpose of obtaining information respecting the activities of Davis while in Mexico City, directing particular efforts and attention toward obtaining copies of communications sent to or by Davis through the German Embassy in Mexico City, as well as information regarding Davis' contacts. Mr. Jones also was advised that Davis is supposed to be communicating with a man named Hertslet in Berlin through the German Embassy in Mexico City.

It was pointed out to Mr. Jones that in the previous material submitted by him on the situation at Mexico City, there is mentioned the name of Miss Wihle, and that recently there has been a decided effort to get a passport for a woman named Erna E. Wehrl or Wehre. Mr. Jones advised that Miss Wihle seemed to be the person handling Davis' office in Mexico City.

I informed Mr. Jones that you are most anxious to have copies of any messages sent by Davis, records of long distance telephone calls he may have made to the United States from Mexico City, particularly to Washington or New York and

RECORDED & INDEXED

65-1168-10X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 3 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2 DALY/TMM ON 4-27-98

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 54

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

any information possible regarding any cablegrams or radiograms Davis exchanged with Germany. I made it clear to him however that you desire him to act in a most discreet manner.

Mr. Jones stated he would leave on the 6:10 plane in the morning. He was instructed to take a code book with him and to advise the Bureau of the information developed just as rapidly as possible. (4)

5:35 p.m.

I called SAC McKee at Pittsburgh and requested that he personally with whatever help he needs make a very discreet check of J. Walter Jones.

He was informed that Jones is supposed to be the president of a bank in Pittsburgh and to be tied up in some business deals with W. R. Davis, who according to the newspapers, was buying all the oil rights in Mexico in behalf of the German Government, and has an office in New York City. Further, that Jones has recently been trying to get a passport to Europe and that there is reason to believe that Davis left for Europe by plane this morning.

I advised Mr. McKee that it is desired to have information regarding the background and activities of Jones; that checks should be made of all telephone records to see what long distance calls Jones has made from his office and residence and that the telegraph companies should be checked for telegrams sent to Jones by Davis and telegrams sent to Davis at Washington, New York and Mexico City. Further, that if Jones is in Pittsburgh, to place a tap on his wire if possible.

Mr. McKee also was informed that trying to get a passport to go to Europe with Jones, was his alleged secretary, Erna F. Wehre or possibly Wehle, and that it is of the utmost importance that the identity and background of this woman be ascertained. It was pointed out that although this woman is supposed to be Jones' secretary, there is a woman named Wihle who used to work for Davis in Mexico City and that it is desired to know if this is the same woman.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 55

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMO FOR THE DIRECTOR 9-20-39

I advised Mr. McKee that if he desires to install telephone taps, to do so and if it is necessary to spend money to get copies of telegrams, to do so, but in any event to start on this the first thing in the morning and to use every one in the office if necessary, at the same time keeping the matter most discreet. He was authorized to cancel firearms training tomorrow.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM

CONFIDENTIAL

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 56

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:COH

Time:. 8:20 p.m.

September 21, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS;
ESPIONAGE

I called SAC Foxworth at New York and inquired as to the type of information being obtained concerning Davis.

He stated that in his opinion the information secured thus far is interesting and that most of it had been sent to the Bureau by teletype today. Copies of Postal, Western Union and RCA telegrams sent and received by Davis have been secured and photostatic copies thereof are to be sent to the Bureau tonight.

I asked Mr. Foxworth if it is still possible to send messages direct to and from Germany. He stated that to his knowledge this could be done but that there is a censorship in Europe. All the messages received from Germany as well as from England bear the censor's stamp.

Mr. Foxworth advised that considerable information is being developed containing leads on Davis' activities in the past. I instructed him to make no checks on leads preceding the middle of July.

Mr. Foxworth stated that on July 30 there was a speech on the floor of the Senate by Senator Bridges of New Hampshire making an attack upon Senator Guffey of Pennsylvania, which was reported in the New York Times. Guffey and Walter A. Jones went to Mexico in 1937 before the oil expiration. I advised Mr. Foxworth that I would have the Congressional record checked in this respect.

I instructed him to vigorously follow up this case.

E. A. TAM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-23-98 BY SP2 glac/tm

65-1162-10X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 3 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILES

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

[DECODED COPY] &(4)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
[SEP 21 1939] &(4)
TELETYPE

CLASSIFIED BY Dalton
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
4-28-98

CLASSIFIED BY DEPARTMENT (DRC)
DATE: 11-27-79 DRK/gtt

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

R [FBI ST LOUIS 9-21-39 5-45PM AM] &(4)

DIRECTOR

SAC NEW YORK

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/TAC
ON 4-20-01

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS. ESPIONAGE. SOURCE OF INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL TOMORROW. WILL SECURE ALL INFORMATION AND ADVISE BY TELETYPE AS REQUESTED. 4

NORRIS

END

AC PLS

BUREAU OK FBI WASH DC JAR

NEW YORK OK FBI NYC JGW

DISCONNECT

FBI - LOS ANGELES
RECEIVED
ADVISED BY
SLIP (S) ON
DATE 9/22/39

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by 2909 DRK/gtt
Exempt from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinate
4-11-78

RECORDED 65-1168-10x2

[ ] &(4)

Copy dm Tamm

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TWO

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 58

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 21 1939
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Olsen
Mr. Sears
Miss Quinn Tamm
Miss Wyck
Miss Gandy

Classified by 2909 DPS/dd
Exempt from GDS Category 3
Date of Declassification Indefinate
4-11-78

[DECODED COPY]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1CLK/JAC
ON 4-20-01

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY TELETYPE SLIP (S) OR LETTER (L) DATE

[FBI NEW YORK CITY 9-21-39 4-35 PM

DIRECTOR

4-28-98 CLASSIFIED BY SP2 KCL/mm
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 3

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS ESPIONAGE. FROM BISHOP SERVICE CREDIT REPORTING AGENCY, NYC THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED. SUBJECT PRINCIPAL OF COMPANY W. R. DAVIS, THIRTY ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NYC WHICH OFFICE REFUSED IMPART ANY INFORMATION OTHER THAN SUBJECTS OPERATIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF EUROPE. SAID TO HAVE AN OFFICE IN MEXICO AND TO HAVE SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS PRIOR NOVEMBER, THIRTY EIGHT MEXICO CITY WHERE SUPPOSEDLY ACTING FOR MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IN SALE OF SEIZED OIL. NEWS PAPER ACCOUNT REFLECTS SUIT FILED AGAINST HIM IN LONDON ENGLAND APRIL SEVEN, THIRTY EIGHT AND FOUND THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED ONE MILLION EIGHTY THOUSAND BARRELS MEXICAN OIL IN PART PAYMENT PIPES AND MACHINERY BOUGHT FROM GERMANY. SUBJECT INFORMED THAT OIL WAS GOING TO HIS PLANT HAMBURG GERMANY WHICH IS CAPBLE OF PRODUCING FIFTEEN THOUSAND BARRELS DAILY AND WAS TO BE MOVED OVERSEAS IN TANKERS HE HAD AVAILABLE AND READY IN GERMANY TO MOVE WITHIN NAZI STATE. FURTHER ADVISED WAS REMODELING PLANT WHICH WOULD BE COMPLETED OCTOBER THIRTY EIGHT. NEWSPAPER ITEM REFLECTED FIVE TANKERS LEFT MEXICO AUGUST FIVE WITH GOVERNMENT OIL AND GAS, INDICATED SUBJECTS DIFFICULTIES OVER GOVERNMENT CONTRACT FOR SALE TO GERMANY, ITALY, SWEDEN OF TEN MILLION DOLLARS OF OIL , OVERCOME. PAYMENT TO BE MADE SIXTY

RECORDED & INDEXED
65-1166-4

TAMM

1 Copy destroyed-30

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 59

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 21 1939
TELETYPE

4(4)

PERCENT MACHINERY FORTY PERCENT CASH. FURTHER INDICATION TWO SHIPS SS PATTER AND POLYCARP HAD SAILED FOR HAMBURG. JAPANESE LEASED [redacted] STEAMSHIPS C G BOVARIG HAD SAILED EITHER HAMBURG OR YOKOHAMA, SS MIRAN SAILED FOR UNDISCLOSED PORT BELIEVED IN GERMANY. A NORWEGIAN TANKER ATHO BELIEVED PROCEEDING HOUSTON TEXAS. IN CONNECTION DEFUNCT DAVIS MALCONA CO, STOCKHOLDERS STATED PURSUED DAVIS LAST NINE YEARS ATTEMPT COLLECT ONE HUNDRED SIXTY NINE THOUSAND JUDGMENT AND AUGUST TWENTY FOUR SUIT FILED TO OBTAIN TITLES SCARSDALE ESTATE OCCUPIED BY DAVIS PURCHASED BY WIFE DECEMBER THIRTY SEVEN FOR SUM NINETY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. DECISION ON MOTION TO APPOINT RECEIVER OF ESTATE RESERVED. AUGUST TWENTY FIVE NINETEEN THIRTY EIGHT NEWSPAPERS REFLECT EASTERN STATES PETROLEU M CO ANNOUNCED RECEIPT FIRST CARGO CRUDE OIL PURCHASED MEXICAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH SUBJECT ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY MEXICAN GOVT AT ITS HOUSTON TEXAS PLANT. SEPTEMBER TWENTY TWO NINETEEN THIRTY EIGHT PRESS STORY RELATED PANHANDLE PRODUCING AND REFINING CO BUYING OVER SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FOREIGN OIL THROUGH SUBJECT COMPANY TO BE PAID WITH STOCK OF PAN HANDLE, SUBJECT COMPANY TO RECEIVE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY NINE SHARES AND L S CARTER AND CO LOCATION NOT GIVEN EIGHTEEN THOUSAND AND ELEVEN SHARES FOR SERVING AS BROKER. THE OCTOBER TWENTY ONE NINETEEN THIRTYEIGHT PRESS ANNOUNCED AUTHORIZATION TO LIST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY SHARES COMON PANHANDLE PRODUCING AND REFINING CO. WITHDRAWN NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE. THIS WAS

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NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 60

CONFIDENTIAL

EXACT NUMBER OF SHARES USED IN PURPORTED PURCHASE FROM SUBJECT COMPANY. OCTOBER EIGHTEEN NINETEEN THIRTY EIGHT PRESS REPORTS CONVICTION SUBJECT BY ENGLISH JUDGE UPON CHARGE CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD DANISH OIL COMPANY. SUBJECT FOUND GUILTY IN THE KINGS BENCH DIVISION HIGH COURT LONDON. IN HANDING DOWN DECISION JUSTICE LEWIS DESCRIBED SUBJECT THE PRINCIPAL DEFENDANT AS "AN UNSCRUPULOUS AND RUTHLESS FINANCIER WHOSE TESTIMONY HE COULD NOT ACCEPT". HENRY W WILSON VICE PRESIDENT DAVIS AND COMPANY WAS CODEFENDANT AS WAS FOREIGN OIL COMPANY OF BOSTON OF WHICH SUBJECT PRESIDENT AND THE CRUSADER PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES LTD LONDON WHICH WILSON MANAGING DIRECTOR. WHEN CONFRONTED INFORMATION CONCERNING LONDON CONVICTION SUBJECTS OFFICE ADVISED HE AND ASSOCIATES PLANNING AN APPEAL. THIS EVIDENTLY MATTER REPORTED PRESS APRIL FIVE NINETEEN THIRTY NINE WHICH INDICATED SUBJECT FREED LONDON COURT OF APPEALS.

FOXWORTH

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC WCS

CONFIDENTIAL

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 61

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 21 1939 X(4)
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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DECLASSIFY ON: ~~25X~~ 3
4-20-98

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1CLK/JJC
ON 4-20-01

FBI NEW YORK CITY 9-21-39 1-15 PM ERL X(4)

DIRECTOR, SAC ST LOUIS

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS ESPIONAGE. BUREAU HAS INSTRUCTED THAT IMMEDIATE ULTRA CONFIDENTIAL INVESTIGATION THIS MATTER CONSIDERED OF IMMINENT IMPORTANCE. INFORMATION RECEIVED HERE THAT JOHN J. CARUTHERS OF SEVEN NAUGHT FIVE OLIVE STREET ST LOUIS CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION OF "DAVIS" UPON BEHALF OF ST LOUIS BANK AND SECURED DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM. CONTACT CARUTHERS IMMEDIATELY AND SECURE ALL INFORMATION HIS POSSESSION. ADVISE BUREAU AND THIS OFFICE TELETYPE RESULTS. & U

FOXWORTH

END

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDED & INDEXED

65-1168-1084

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
3 1939 X(4)
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM

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Date of declassification Indefinate
4-11-78

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 62

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 21 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

ERL

FBI NEW YORK CITY 9-21-39 2-30 PM

DIRECTOR

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS ESPIONAGE. RECORDS BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU NYC REFLECT SUBJECT EMPLOYED LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER NINETEEN TEN TO NINETEEN EIGHTEEN, M O AND G RAILROAD. DURING THAT PERIOD HE PROMOTED BEST TEST OIL AND GAS COMPANY, LOCATION UNKNOWN. SHORTLY THEREAFTER AT JOPLIN AND WEBB CITY MO. PROMOTED SEVERAL ZINC MINES, INCLUDING THE SUCCESS ZINC COMPANY AND THE MALCONA ZINC COMPANY. THEREAFTER AT TULSA OKLA PROMOTED THE MALCONA PETROLEUM COMPANY AND DAVIS MALCONA COMPANY. INVESTORS BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST SUBJECT IN CONNECTION WITH DAVIS MALCONA COMPANY AND SAID TO HAVE OBTAINED JUDGMENT ONE SIXTY NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN SUMMER NINETEEN THIRTY EIGHT. OKLAHOMA CITY BEING REQUESTED TO CHECK. SUBJECT AFFILIATED CRUSADER PIPELINE CO AND CRUSADER OIL PRODUCING CO, ELDORADO ARK. SAID TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES CONTINENTAL SUPPLY CO WHERE HE HAD ACCOUNT WITH BALANCE IN EXCESS THREE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS. NINETEEN TWENTY EIGHT SUBJECT BROKER AND FINDER FOR THE ARKANSAS NATURAL GAS CO. PHILADELPHIA OFFICE OF BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU INDICATED SUBJECT KNOWN AS OLD TIME STOCK SWINDLER IN PHILADELPHIA WHERE OPERATED IN NINETEEN TWENTY THREE AND TWENTY FOUR AND LATER IN BOSTON MASS NINETEEN THIRTY SEVEN CONNECTED DAVIS MALCONA COMPANY WHICH WENT INTO RECEIVERSHIP. IN NINETEEN THIRTY SIX WAS CONNECTED

Copy destroyed -30

RECORDED 65-1166-10X5

SAME

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 63

COPY

PAGE TWO

WITH FOREIGN OIL COMPANY INC. BOSTON SAID TO BE HEADQUARTERS. INFORMATION INDICATED DAVIS IN MAY NINETEEN THIRTY THREE WAS IN SOME MANNER CONNECTED WITH THE NATIONAL CORPORATION OF PERU, FIFTY SEVEN WALL ST NYC. APRIL NINETEEN THIRTY SIX INDICATION CONNECTED WITH PACIFIC AMAZON RAILROAD, NO ADDRESS GIVEN. CLIPPING FEBRUARY THIRTEEN, THIRTY NINE IN FILE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU REFERRED TO A NEW MOVE IN MEXICO TO BECLOUD OIL ISSUE, MENTIONED SUBJECT RECENTLY EXECUTED SEVENTEEN MILLION DOLLAR BARTER DEAL WITH GERMANY AND REFERRED TO DONALD RICHBERG AND PATRICK J HURLEY

AS BEING REPRESENTATIVES STANDARD AND SINCLAIR OIL COMPANIES. NEWSPAPER CLIPPING, SOURCE UNKNOWN, DATED APRIL TWENTY FIVE NINETEEN THIRTY NINE INDICATED SUBJECT FREED IN COURT OF APPEALS OF LONDON. MATTER INVOLVED NOT INDICATED. ACCOUNTS CARRIED WITH FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOSTON MASS AND CHASE NATIONAL NYC. MAJORITY BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED THROUGH BOSTON. BOSTON OFFICE REQUESTED CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION. LETTER FROM BOSTON OFFICE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU INDICATED SUBJECT OPERATING UNDER TITLE DAVIS AND COMPANY, REGISTERED BROKERS, MASSACHUSETTS, SEPTEMBER SEVENTEEN TO THIRTY, NINETEEN THIRTY ONE. FURTHER AS PROMOTER ACTIVE IN SOUTH AMERICA, WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN CONSTRUCTION OIL PIPE LINE IN

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 64

WHICH SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OWN CAPITAL INVESTED ~~AS XXX~~ AND AS RESULT FAILURE STANDARD OIL COMPANY TAKE OVER PROJECT FOR UNKNOWN REASON SUBJECT FINANCIALLY EMBARRASSED. ALSO REPORTED TO ONE TIME BEEN CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF TRUST CORD TIRE COMPANY WHICH ACQUIRED DEFUNCT RAINBOW TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY, DELAWARE, OHIO. IN DECEMBER NINETEEN THIRTY SUBJECT REPORTED NEGOTIATING WITH CHATTANOOGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR CONSTRUCTION NATURAL GAS PIPELINE BETWEEN SUNBRIGHT FIELD, TENNESSEE, AND CHATTANOOGA, WHICH DID NOT MATERIALIZE. IN LATTER PART NINETEEN THIRTY ONE SUBJECT SAID TO HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO SELL BLOCK OF STOCK FOR PURE CHEESE CORPORATION, THIRTEEN SEVENTY FIVE WEST LAKE ST, CHICAGO AND AT SAME TIME BE INTERESTED NATIONAL CORPORATION OF PERU, DESCRIBED AS HAVING SOLD ~~REIXXX~~ RIGHTS FOR COLONIZING SECTION OF PERU. CONSUL GENERAL PERU, NYC, ADVISED NO RECORD HIS OFFICE WITH REFERENCE TO GRANTING BY THE PERUVIAN GOVT TO THE NATIONAL CORPORATION OF PERU ANY SUCH RIGHTS, BUT THAT IN THE LEGUIA ADMINISTRATION RAILROAD AND COLONIZING CONTRACTS HAD BEEN AWARDED ONE BERTRAND LEE, WHICH WERE LATER CANCELED AND TRANSFERRED SUBJECT AND HIS ASSOCIATES. CONSL ADVISED WHEN LEGUIA ADMINISTRATION OVERTHROWN CONTRACT WAS QUESTIONED AND UNDER DISCUSSION LATER, BUT NO INFORMATION AS TO FINAL ACTION. PERU CONSUL SUGGESTED COMMUNICATON WITH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, LIMA PERU. BOSTON BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU ADVISED NEW YORK OFFICE, APRIL TWENTY

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COPY

SECOND THAT INQUIRIES HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO EFFECT SUBJECT ENDEAVORING TO SECURE WOMAN SECRETARY ACCOMPANY HIM SOUTH AMERICA IN CONNECTION WITH ACTIVITIES THERE.

SHERRILL SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT CHASE NATIONAL BANK ADVISED ACCOUNT SUBJECT ONLY NOMINAL. MAKING RECORDS AVAILABLE THIS AFTERNOON. THAT FIRST NATIONAL, BOSTON, HAD SOME CREDITS ON GERMANY IN WHICH DIFFICULTY EXPERIENCED IN COLLECTING AND COLLECTIONS ARRANGED THROUGH SUBJECT. HE WAS UNDER IMPRESSION BOSTON BANK COULD FURNISH MUCH INFORMATION REGARDING DAVIS. BOSTON TELEPHONICALLY REQUESTED MAKE APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION. SEARCH PRESENTLY UNDER WAY, WESTERN UNION, WHERE LARGE ACCOUNT CARRIED, COPIES ALL INCOMING AND OUTGOING MESSAGES. SIMILAR SEARCH UNDER WAY AT POSTAL TELEGRAPH MACKAY RADIO AND RCA. INFORMATION THESE SOURCES WILL BE FURNISHED BUREAU BY TELETYPE AS RAPIDLY AS OBTAINED.

FOXWORTH

END

OK FBI WASH DC AVB

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[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 21 1939

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TELETYPE

CLASSIFIED BY [illegible]
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
4-18-98

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Crosby
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Carson
Miss Gandy

FBI NEW YORK CITY 9-21-39 9-10PM EDST JGW

DIRECTOR

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1CLK/AC
ON 4-30-01

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS ESPIONAGE. NY TIMES JULY THIRTIETH THIS YEAR CARRIED NEWS ARTICLE CAPTIONED QUOTE ATTACH ON GUFFEY STIRS SENATE BOW UNQUOTE WHICH RELATED THAT SENATOR BRIDGES OF NEW MEXICO LINKED SENATOR GUFFEY OF PENNSYLVANIA TO THE SALE OF SEIZED OIL IN MEXICO. ACCUSED SENATOR STATED NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS READ ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE WERE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT FALSE AND A MALICIOUS CHARACTER DESTROYING LIE. BRIDGES STATED HIGH OFFICIALS OF ADMINISTRATION HAD ENCOURAGED AND EVEN RECOMMENDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNISM IN MEXICO AND THAT THIS HAD LEAD TO THE EXPROPRIATION OF AMERICAN AND BRITISH PROPERTIES IN THAT COUNTRY. NEWS ARTICLE FURTHER STATED SENATOR GUFFEY MADE TRIP TO MEXICO CITY IN NINETEEN THIRTYSEVEN BEFORE THE PROPERTY SEIZURES ACCOMPANIED BY WALTER A. JONES, PITTSBURGH OIL MAN AND ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT, WHO IS DESCRIBED AS FREE LANCE OIL OPERATOR, CREDITED WITH DISPOSING OF MEXICAN OIL TO FOREIGN INTERESTS. IT WAS FURTHER STATED GUFFEY AND JONES WERE REPORTED AS HAVING CONFERRED WITH EDUARDO SUAREZ, MEXICAN MINISTER OF FINANCE, IN A WASHINGTON HOTEL AFTER SEIZURES OF PROPERTY BY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. SUGGESTED BUREAU MAY DESIRE TO REFER CONGRESSIONAL RECORD THESE DATES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

65-1168-10

END

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Exempt from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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4-11-78

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AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OR
DATE

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DocId:34636567 Page 67

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

EAT:COH

September 19, 1939

Time: 6:05 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Berle, Assistant Secretary of State, called and wanted to know if I would have some one contact him tomorrow in connection with a cable received from overseas and referred by the President to the Department of State for handling. Other than to state that the matter concerns high politics and will probably require some checking by the New York Office, Mr. Berle would not disclose any further information due to the nature thereof.

I advised Mr. Berle some would call him in the morning for an appointment.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM

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65-11[illegible]-10X7
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 21 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 23 1939

TELETYPE

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4-28-78 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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FBI NEW YORK CITY 9-23-39 12-45 PM RK

DIRECTOR

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS.....ESPJONAGE

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Exempt from GDS Category 2 & 4
Date of Declassification Indefinate
4-11-78

FOLLOWING DOMESTIC MESSAGES RECEIVED AND SENT BY SUBJECT AND ASSOCIATES. YEAR NINETEEN THIRTY NINE.

"AUGUST SECOND, TWO THIRTY THREE PM

STRACHAN SHIPPING CO., COTTON EXCHANGE BLDG., HOUSTON, TEX.

MAXALBRECHT BLADINGS SHOULD SHOW W R DAVIS SHIPPER DAVIS AND CO. INC. CONSIGNEE. DESTINATION"A GERMAN PORT". WIRELESS ORDERS "OFF LANDSEND". FORWARD DOCUMENTS DIRECT DAVIS AND COMPANY INCORPORATED NEW YORK CITY. MAXALBRECHT TRIPCHARTER

DAVIS AND CO. INC.

"AUGUST 25,4-34 PM

CHARLES W YOST ACTING CHIEF DIVISION OF CONTROL

DEPT. OF STATE WASH DC

THIS TO CONFIRM AND INQUIRE STATUS OF IMPORT PERMIT REQUESTED OUR LETTER AUGUST 21,1939 ADDRESSED TO YOU PERSONALLY STOP IF MORE CONVENIENT I MAY BE REACHED THROUGH MR WALTER A JONES MAYFLOWER HOTEL WASHINGTON DC RESPECTFULLY

W F FLANLEY DAVIS AND CO. INC.

"AUGUST 25,4-32 PM

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY H ARNOLD

CHIEF OF AIR CORP UNITEDSTATES ARMY WASH DC

THIS IS TO CONFIRM AND INQUIRE WHETHER DECISION YET REACHED ON MATTER OUTLINED OUR LETTER AUGUST 21,1939 ADDRESSED TO YOU

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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Declassify on: OADR 4-19-85, 26, 34B

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/BAC ON 4-20-01

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65-1162-H
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 25 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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DocId:34636567 Page 69

 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PERSONALLY STOP IF MORE CONVENIENT I MAY BE REACHED
THROUGH MR WALTER A P JONES MAYFLOWER HOTEL WASHINGTON DC
RESPECTFULLY

W F FLANLEY DAVIS AND CO INC

"JUNE 7, 9-39 AM
DAVCOM S A AVE JUAREZ 76 MEXICO D F
BERLIN ADVISES KUNSTSEIDEVERBAND AUTHORIZED QUIMICA NEGOTIATE
artificial silk Contract
WITH DAVCOMSA WITH IMPORT ADORA GET IMPORT PERMISSION 1000 TONS
RAYON AGAINST OIL STOP WORKING ON CHEMICALS THEY CAN SUPPLY
SPLINTBOARD BUT NEED PRICES AND QUANTITIES ADVISE STOP FOLLOWING
FOR MATTHAI QUOTE YOURS FIFTH WELCOME ANY ORDERS YOU CAN
PLACE IN GERMANY BUT VERY ESSENCE OUR AGREEMENT WITH MINISTRY
IS GENERAL TRADE BE DONE OVER GENERAL ASKI YOU LEAVE IT US GET
PESOS POSITIVELY NO PERMIT OBTAINABLE PAY FOR ASKILIST ARTICLES
FROM OUR ACCOUNT UNQUOTE STOP PLEASE ADVISE YOU CABLED DIRECT
FIFTH AND WHAT
MACDONALD"

"JUNE 10 9-55 AM
DAVCOM S A AVE JUAREZ 76 MEXICO D F MEX
PIPSA BERLIN WORKING ILLER ACCEPTANCE WILL ADVISE MONDAY
DAVIS AND COMPANY INC"

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE THREE

"WB100 18 COLLECT WASHINGTON DC 12 1122 A

JUNE 12,11-35 AM

W R DAVIS, CARE DAVIS AND CO. INC.

30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NYK

IT IS IMPORTANT YOU TALK TO ME BEFORE TWO OCLOCK TODAY ABOUT MATTER VITAL TO YOUR FA XX AFFAIRS

WALTER A JONES-

"JUNE 21,8-55 AM

DAVCOM S A AVE JUAREZ 76 MEXICO D F

MATTHAI ORINOCO BERLIN ADVISES MINISTRY RIGHT NOW WORKING OUT REGULATIONS DRUCKPAPIER (printing paper) PIPSA BUSINESS AND THEY INSTRUCTED NOT PAY ORINOCO DOCUMENTS YET WILL ADVISE FURTHER STOP PLEASE ADVISE AMOUNT THESE DOCUMENTS ALSO HAVE YOU ANY FURTHER ADVICE ILLER DOCUMENTS

DAVIS AND COMPANY INC

"JULY 11,2-29 PM

CAPT CUGIA DI SANT ORSOLA

NAVAL ATTACHE ROYAL ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON DC

BONZO LOADED AND SAILED MORNING JULY 6TH. BILL OF LADING APPARENTLY LOST IN MAILS BETWEEN MINATITLAN AND MEXICO CITY AS MOST CAREFUL CHECK FAILS TO LOCATE THEM. PLEASE AUTHORIZE LOPEZ HERMANOS ISSUE DUPLICATE SET BLADINGS SO DOCUMENTS CAN BE DELIVERED AND TRANSACTION CLOSED

DAVIS AND CO INC

CONFIDENTIAL

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE FOUR

"JULY 11,3-42 PM

DAVCOM S A AVE. JUAREZ 76, MEXICO D F

14 LOST BONZO DOCUMENTS EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING AND VERY SERIOUS FEAR NAVAL ATTACHE MAY NOT COOPERATE BUT ANY EVENT IMPERATIVE HAVE LOPEZ HERMANOS WIRE NAVAL ATTACHE EXPLAINING DIFFICULTY REQUESTING PERMISSION PREPARE NOT SET BLADINGS ALSO NECESSARY YOU PROVIDE REQUIRED AFFIDAVITS IF THEY ALSO LOST STOP DO UTMOST LOCATE ORIGINAL BLADINGS

DAVCOM

"JULY 13, 2-08 PM

W F FLANLEY DAVIS AND CO INC

30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NYK

RELET JULY 8 TO LIEUTENANT MOORE CONFERENCE WITH MISTER WEIL AND YOURSELF WRIGHTFIELD JULY 18 SATISFACTORY

MATERIAL DIVISION AIR CORP"

"JULY 21,2-12 PM

LIC. EDUARDO SUAREZ - MINISTER HACIENDA MEXICO D F

WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD CAUSE DISTRIBUIDORA TO GIVE WALNE TODAY DEFINITE COMMITMENT LIFTING SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST ACCOUNT OF OTHERSIDE FRANTIC DUE TO TANKSHIPS ERRIVING EARLY AUGUST WITH NO SCHEDULE STOP REGARDS

DAVIS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE FIVE

"JULY 24,11-11 AM

DAVCOM S A

AVENIDA JUAREZ 76 MEXICO DF MEX

MACDONALD BERLING ADVISES QUOTE RAYON KUNSTSEIDEVERBAND

DONT WANT COOPERATION TAMM WRITING REASON UNQUOTE

DAVIS"

PHOTOSTATIC COPIES ABOVE MESSAGES BEING FORWARDED

FOXWORTH

ONLY BUREAU CODING IN ABOVE IS THE FIRST LINE

END

OK RGI W

OK RGI W

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC JRC

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DocId:34636567 Page 73

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 23 1939

TELETYPE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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DECLASSIFY ON: 25X3
(1-28-98)

B

FBI SAN ANTONIO SEPT 23 1939 1 PM BFD

DIRECTOR

FOLLOWING RELAYED FROM SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE JONES IN MEXICO CITY TODAY. W R DAVIS LEFT MEXICO CITY BY PLANE SEVENTEENTH INSTANT FOR NEW YORK CITY. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION DESIRED ALTHOUGH INDICATIONS ARE RADIO WAS USED. MEXICAN COMPANY BEING ORGANIZED MEXICO CITY BY ALBERTO PANI AND OTHERS THAT MAY BE FOR PURPOSE TAKING OVER DAVIS CONTRACT. THEY ARE LOADING DANISH S S OLGA S AT TAMPICO TODAY WITH ASPHALT FOR COPENHAGEN. WILL SUBMIT DETAILS ON THIS COMPANY LATER ALSO CONCERNING GENERAL CONDITIONS ESPECIALLY REGARDING INTERNED SHIPS USING RADIO ALTHOUGH SUPPOSED TO BE DISMANTLED.

JONES

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ON 4-20-01

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END

OK FBI WASH DC WHM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDED & INDEXED

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF
DATE 9/28/39

Classified by 2909 DPJ/dd
Exempt from GDS Category 3
Date of Declassification Indefinite
4-4-78

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

1168-1181

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 23 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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DocId:34636567 Page 74

607 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, N. Y.

65-128

WYH:HKB

September 21, 1939

Postmaster
U. S. Post Office
Scarsdale, New York

Re: WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS;
ESPIONAGE.

Dear Sir:

In connection with an official investigation being conducted by this Office, it is respectfully requested that a thirty-day mail cover be placed upon the mail addressed to the following individual:

WILLIAM ROSE/ AVIS
2 Cooper Road
Scarsdale, New York

In forwarding tracings to this office, please refer to our File #65-128.

Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH
Special Agent in Charge

cc-Bureau

65-1168-
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGAT
SEP 27 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TWO pgs

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DocId:34636567 Page 75

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

September 20, 1939

Time 7:35 p. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

SAC Foxworth placed a station to station call to the Bureau from New York and in the absence of Mr. Rosen the call was taken by the writer. The information contained herein was telephonically furnished to you but for record purposes is being submitted in memorandum form.

Mr. Foxworth advised that he had contacted the Night President of the Pan American Airways who advised that W. R. Davis left today for Lisbon, Portugal and at the present time the plane is grounded at Bermuda due to poor flying conditions. Davis originally requested passage to Rome but was told that this was not possible. In connection with this, the President of the Airways advised that Davis' secretary, Erna Wehrle, had made reservations for this trip but suddenly canceled same. He further stated that both Davis and his secretary made frequent trips the latest of which was to Mexico City from which place they returned the 16th of this month.

The above is the substance of Mr. Foxworth's information.

Respectfully,

Thomas E. Bryant

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RECORDED
INDEXED

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 3 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAMM
TWO

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DocId:34636567 Page 76

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

ECP:VA
65-128

New York City
September 22, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS
Espionage

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letter from this office dated September 21, 1939, with which was enclosed one photostatic copy of judgment returned in Supreme Court of Judicature, Court of Appeal, April 24, 1939 at London, England, which judgment is more particularly described in reference letter.

Said letter erroneously states that this photostat was made from a copy of the printed judgment which was contained in the files of the CHASE NATIONAL BANK of New York City and was made available to the New York Bureau office through the courtesy of Mr. SHERRILL SMITH, Vice President of that institution. In fact, the printed copy of the judgment was made available by Mr. HARRY KADELL, Secretary of PROUDFOOT'S COMMERCIAL AGENCY INC., New York City.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH
Special Agent in Charge

65-1168-12

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ON 4-10-78

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DEC 1955
DATE 5-1-78 BOPC

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 25 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 22 1939

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Date of Declassification Indefinite
4-11-78

DIRECTOR

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS, ESPIONAGE. FOLLOWING INCOMING RADIOGRAMS RECEIVED BY SUBJECT AND ASSOCIATES OVER FACILITIES OF RCA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/JAC
ON 4-20-01

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY TELETYPE
SLIP (S) CHECKED
DATE 4/28/78

JULY TWENTYSIX, TWELVE FORTY EIGHT PM

GB 689 LONDON 61 26 1806 PAGE 1/40

NLT DAVCOM NEW YORK

DAVIS RETEL BELIEVE MEXEAGLE WILL APPEAL TIME LIMIT MAXIMUM TWO MONTHS GIDE BELIVES JUDGMENT WILL STAND UNLESS POLITICS INTERVENE STOP AM PRESSING FOR RELEASE FUNDS WHICH SHOULD FOLLOW JUDGMENT APPEAL OR NO APPEAL BUT BANK MAY MAKE DIFFICULTIES STOP BELIVE IF WE REFUSE EXTEND TWENTYFIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR BILL PETROSERVICE MAY BRING STRONGER PRESSURE TO BEAR ON BANK

PHILOSOPHY RECORDED & INDEXED 65-1168-12X

JULY TWENTYSECOND SIX EIGHTEEN AM

1520 LONDON 60 22 1158 0- P1/50

DAVCOM NEW YORK

HAVE WON FRENCH CASE ON GROUND OF IMPOSSIBILITY OF IDENTIFYING GASOLENE AS HAVING FORMED PART OF MEXICAN EAGLES STOCKS AT DATE OF EXPROPRIATION OR AS EMANATING FROM CRUDE FROM MEXICAN EAGLES CONCESSIONS STOP MEXICAN EAGLE ADJUDGED LIABLE TO PAY YOU AND FRENCH IMPORTERS DAMAGES TO BE ASSESSED BY EXPERT STOP THIS JUDGMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

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DocId:34636567 Page 78

PAGE TWO

POSSIBLY TURNING POINT IN STRUGGLE.

PHILOSOPHY

JULY TWENTYONE, SEVEN ELEVEN AM

DGG/BF BERLIN PR 1613 27/25 21 1235

LC DAVCOM NEW YORK

414 HERZI FREUNDE WOLLEN DASS SIE WEGEN CITSERGESCHAEFTE SOFORT NACH SUEDEN WEITERREISEN STOP WR KANN IHNEN [redacted] EINZELHEITEN CITSERGESCHAEFTE GEBEN STOP HEWO

CLEMM

JULY NINETEEN, ONE TWENTY OXX FIVE PM

SDEBJ SW 4169 MALMO 98/96 19 1745 1/50

[redacted] NLT DAVCOM NEWYORK

WATSON IF HAMBURG DELIVERS 1000 TONS GASOLINE JULY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS COVERED UNTIL AUGUST 5TH STOP MUST HAVE AT LEAST XXXXX 2000 TONS AUGUST IN ADDITION STOP IF WE GET SHORT IN MEANTIME WE COMPLETE BY SMALL CARGOES FROM ANY EUROPE PORT STOP IF YOU SHIP FROM YOUR SIDE COULD YOU COMBINE CARGO WITH 1200 TONS POWER KERO ABOUT 40 OCTANE STOP ACCTPTING YOU R GASOILOFFER SS TROLLEHOLM LOADING GALVESTON HOUSTON OR NEWORLEANS ABOUT SEPTEMBER 10TH STOP FOR YOUR INFORMATION STERN LONDON OFFERS SAME OIL CIFPRICE DOLLARS 13.50 EQUIVALE [redacted] EQUIVALENT TO 3 1/4 CENT PER GALLON FOB.

SKANDITANK

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 79

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE THREE

JULY FOURTEENTH, TEN THIRTY AM

DFAHG BERLIN PRK 1744 24/21 14 1547

NLT DAVCOM. NYK

402 SHIPMENT EIGHTYTWO RT 272 ILLER 6440 SHEETS 1779 BY NINEHUNDREDTHIRTYFIVE INCH 12880 SHEETS SIXHUNDREDTHIRTYFIVE DIAMETER 147140 KILOS

NO SIGNATURE

JULY THIRTEENTH, TWELEXXX TWELVE TWENTY SEVEN AM

SDQ/RU SW4237 MALMO 191/187 13 1633 P1/50

NLT DAVCOM. NEWYORK

YOUR ESTIMATED ABOUT EIGHTTHOUSAND TONS GASOLINE TRANSIT ACCOUNT HAMBURG NOT IN ACCORDANCE INFORMATIONS RECEIVED IN GERMANY STOP BERLIN SAID AND HAMBURG CONFIRMED GASOLINE TRANSIT ACCOUNT JULY SEVENTH SHOWING A BALANCE IN YOUR DISFAVOR OF THREETHOUSANDEIGHTEEN TONS STOP HAMBURG/REFINERYS SHUT DOWN CAUSES DISCONTINUED GASOLINE DELIVERIES THEY CANNOT DEIVER UNTIL BEGINING AUGUST STOP OF 8100 TONS MENTIONED IN OUR LETTER TO YOU APRXXX APRIL TEN WE HAVE RECEIVED UP TODAY ONLY 2600 STOP IN ORDER COVER MINIMUM STOCK WE MUST BUY ANYWHERE 500 TONS 68 OCTANE FOR PROMPT SHIPMENT STOP ANY MERCHANDISE ON OPEN CREDIT CREXXX CREDIT FROM HAMBURG TO OUR FINANCE DEPENDING ON YOUR PSSXXX POSSIBILITIES TO SUPPLY THEM LOW

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE FOUR

OCTANE GASOLINE OR SWEET CRUDE STOP BOCKELMANN REFERS TO MEMORANDUM CALCULATIONS BASED UPON MIRANDO STOP ONLY POSSIBILITY I CAN SEE YOU LET HAMBURG DISPOSE OF PART OF POLYCARP TO BE CONVERTED HIGH OCTANE TO SWEDEN [redacted] STOP FIRST BIG TANK TO MALMOE NOT UNTIL END OF THIS MONTH BECAUSE GERMAN AUTHORITIES STOP CONFIDENTIALLY I C PLANES REFINERY SWEDISH WESTCOAST STOP INTERESTING NEWS ABOUT I C MAILED TODAY STOP NUMBER SKANDITANKS SELLINGSTATIONS NOW 120 STOP NET PROFIT JUNE SVENSKA KRONOR 21400.

NILSSON

JULY ELEVEN, TWELVE TWENTY NINE PM

DFA/TU BERLIN K609 102/98 11 1740 1/50

LC DAVCOM NEWYORK

396 SEE 391 HOW ABOUT MORE ADVANCE GASOIL HOW ABOUT CEPSA STOP FRIEND AND I [redacted] IMPORTBOARD PRESSING FOR CONFIRMATION AUGUST LIFTINGS STOP YOU CAN LOAD SAMLAND LIGHTFUELD IF YOU DEFINITELY LOAD RACINE PEDERSEN AND SCHLIEMANN AUGUST LIGHTFUELD STOP ADRIA RANUCO INSTEAD THALATA WHICH OUT UNLESS YOU HAVE ADVANCE GASOIL OR LIGHTFUELD FOR HER ALSO SUCCEEDED WITHDRAW SCHWARZMEER ANTARKTIS DITHMARSCHEN ALTMARK REKUM BUT AS THESE SHIPS WILL BE IDLE HERE FRIEND HOPES YOU CAN ARRANGE ADDITIONAL LIFTINGS AUGUST STOP BY CHANCE HEARD JOHNSONS CAN TAK TAKE LOW CTANE END JULY STOP PLEASE SELL THEM ESTURIA CABLE STOP [redacted] [redacted] REFINERY DOWN

NO SIGNATURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 81

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE FIVE

JULY TEN, EIGHT TWENTY FIVE AM

DFA/TU K BERLIN 122 31 10 1347

NLT DAVIS CARE DAVCOM ~~NEWYORK~~ NEWYORK

CABLING PRIVAT AFTER DISCUSSION HANSELL STOP CONVINCED CAN BE OF MORE ~~ADVANTAGE~~ ADVANTAGE YOUR SIDE FOR NEXT TIME THAN ~~HERE~~ HERE PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU AGREE.

~~K~~ KRING

JULY SEVEN, FIVE THIRTYTHREE PM

GBW1365 CAIRO 22 7 1255 DLT

DAVCOM NEWYORK

GOVERNMENT REQUESTS FURTHER RENEWAL L/G BUT DONT RECOMMEND AS BELIEVE INCREASED LOCAL PRODUCTION MAKES PURCHASE IMPROBABLE CABLE INSTRUCTIONS

~~K~~CHESAMREP

JULXXX JUNE THIRTIETH, TWELVE FIFTY FOUR PM

CKDGG PR 1832 BERLIN 136/135 30 1810 1/50

NLT DAVCOM NEWYORK

374 DAVIS YOU POSITIVELY WRONG IN PAYING PIPSAMONEY ~~IS~~ ~~XXXX~~ WAS AVAILABLE TO YOU STOP YOU AGREED AND KRING CONFIRMED UPON HIS RETURN THAT YOU WOULD RESPECT PIPSABUSINESS AS BEING OLD BUSINESS WITH ~~RESX~~ RESULTING DEVISEN APPLICABLE ACCORDING PARAGRAPH EIGHT 40 PERCENT STOP AS REGARDS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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DocId:34636567 Page 82

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE SIX

NEW BUSINESS AND YOUR MEMORANDER JUNE NINTH AFRAID CLEAR CUT PERMIT CANNOT BE [redacted] ISSUED BEFORE GERMAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES MEXICO BUT EXPECT REAL HEADWAY AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL HERE FROM MEXICO STOP YOUR MEMORANDA JUNE [redacted] NINTH WOULD STAND MUCH BETTER CHANCES IF DAVCOM COMPLETELY ELIMINATED AND PLAN WAS DRAWN UP AS HACIENDAS IMPORT REGULATIONS FOR STATECONTROLED NEW BUSINESS WITH GERMANY PERHAPS WITH [redacted] BANCO [redacted] COMERCIO AND REICHSKREDITGESELLSCHAFT AS EXPONENTS STOP BELIEVE PROBABLE PERMIT OBTAINABLE TRANSFER BALANCES SUBACCOUNT D TO HACIENDA FOR SPECIFIC PURCHASES [redacted] SANCTIONED BEFOREHAND STOP WILL TRY MONDAY PARTIES MINISTRY NOW ABSENT.

NO SIGNATURE

AUGUST TWENTY NINE, SEVEN TWELVE AM

GB625 LONDON 34 29 1235

DAVCOM FOR KAUGGMAN NEWYORK

PREFER YOU INSTRUCT GERMAN LAWYER DIRECT BECAUSE DONT BELIEVE ANY GERMAN LAWYER NOW ACCEPT INSTRUCTIONS FROM ENGLAND STOP REMEMBER IMPORTANT THING IS REVOCATION OLD POWERS NOT REGISTRATION NEW ONES.

PHILOSOPHY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AUGUST TWENTY EIGHT, FIFXX FIVE FIFTY AM

[redacted] GMRJS 47 LONDON 79/78 28 1105 1/50

DAVCOM FOR KAUFFMAN NEWYORK

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 83

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE SEVEN

EXPRESS NOTICE REQUIRED IN EVERY CASE STOP THIS NECESSITATES ACCURATE DESCRIPTION REVOKED POWERS PARTICULARISING DATE STOP BELIEVE TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION GERMANY LIKELY SEVERED LATER TODAY STOP ARE THEREFORE CABLING GENERAL NOTICE DRESDNER DEUTSCH SUDAMERIKANISCHE AND HARDY STOP ALSO WRITING CLEMM REQUESTING HIM SURRENDER OLD POWER TO US AFTER WHICH WE WILL DELIVER HIM NEW POWER STOP YOU SHOULD INSTRUCT LAWYER BERLIN DIRECT MAKE NECESSARY ENTRY HANDELSREGISTER.

PHILOSOPHY

SEPTEMBER SEVENTEEN, FIVE FORTY SIX PM

SAQLD SW8806 MALMO 31 17 2050

NLT DAVCOM NEWYORK

33 NOTWITHSTANDING CONCENTRATED EFFORTS ALL SCANDINAVIA HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED PLACE ANY FLOATING CARGO STOP THEREFORE CANNOT NAME ANY ~~SAXXX~~ SCANDINAVIAN ~~DISCHAGXX~~ DISCHARGE PORT BUT STILL WORKING HAVE NOTIFIED WATSON

~~X~~HANSELL

SEPTEMBER FIFTEEN, FIVE THIRTY ONE PM

SDEHG SW8452 STOCKHOLM 42/40 15 2220

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NLT DAVCOM NEWYORK

ON YOUR INITIATIVE MY TEN YEARS SAFE EMPLOYMENT HAS BEEN NOT ONLY SEVERED BUT ON YOUR URGENCY MY CONTRACTED SIX MONTHS NOTICE WAS SHORTENE

AND NEW MAN EMPLOYED STOP THEREFORE MUST INSIST SIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE EIGHT

MONTHS SALARY COMPENSATION OUR AGREEMENT

HANSEN

SEPTEMBER EIGHT, SIX ELEVEN AM

SDEDL SW2894 MALMO 11 8 1110

DAVCOM NEWYORK

TWELVE FOLLOWING STRICTLY YOUR INSTRUCTIONS CONNECTION NEEFS CABLE

SKANDITANK

PHOTOSTATIC COPIES ALL MESSAGES BEING FORWARDED AMASD.

FOXWORTH

INTL AND HOLD PLS

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 85

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFIED BY SP4 CLK/JAC/lrm
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 3
4-28-98

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 22 1939
TELETYPE

[DECODED COPY]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

FBI NEW YORK CITY 9-22-39 1-55 PM ERL

DIRECTOR

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS ESPIONAGE. PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS ADVISES OF FOLLOWING TRAVEL OF SUBJECT AND HIS ASSOCIATES-

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/JAC
ON 4-20-01

FEBRUARY TWELFTH, THIRTY NINE, SUBJECT BOOKED PASSAGE BROWNSVILLE TEXAS TO MEXICO CITY ACCOMPANIED BY C. E. MC DONALD AND H. H. HEGEMANN AND ERNA F. WEHRLE.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND BUREAU OFFICIALS ADVISED BY TELETYPE SLIP (S) OF 9/22/39 DATE

APRIL TWENTY FOURTH, MAY TWELFTH AND MAY TWENTY NINTH, TRAVELED BROWNSVILLE TO MEXICO CITY, ACCOMPANIED BY WEHRLE IN EACH INSTANCE.

RECORDED & INDEXED 65-1168-12X

JULY THIRTYFIRST, BROWNSVILLE TO MEXICO CITY, ACCOMPANIED BY J. G. A. HERTSLET, E. BRIESCHRE, H. W. WILSON AND WEHRLE. MESSRS. HERTSLET AND BRIESCHRE ARE REPORTED BY PAN AMERICAN TO HAVE BEEN GERMAN CITIZENS WITH PAPERS IN ORDER.

TAMM TWO

AUGUST TWENTYFIRST, BROWNSVILLE TO MEXICO CITY, ACCOMPANIED BY WEHRLE, MRS. W. R. DAVIS AND H. W. WILSON.

Copy destroyed-30

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by 2909 SP5/JAC
Exempt from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
4-11-78
Mr. Schildecker

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 86

 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEPTEMBER FIRST, BROWNSVILLE TO MEXICO CITY ACCOMPANIED BY WEHRLE.

SEPTEMBER TWENTIETH, PORT WASHINGTON L. I. TO LISBON, PORTUGAL, TRAVELING ALONE

FOXWORTH

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC CFD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 87

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Saint Louis, Missouri
September 25, 1939

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Re: WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS
ESPIONAGE

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that I communicated today with Special Agent T. J. DONEGAN of the New York Office, advising him that the entire file of the firm of Thompson, Mitchell, Thompson & Young, attorneys, St. Louis, Missouri, had been turned over to this office for the purpose of obtaining information desired by the Bureau in connection with the above entitled case.

This file is so voluminous that it is not thought advisable to attempt to copy it or make photostatic copies in this office and in view of the fact that the St. Louis Office does not have the background of this case, it would not be possible to intelligently select the material desired by the Bureau from this file. For this reason, the entire file, as suggested by Mr. DONEGAN, is being forwarded to the Bureau instead of the New York Office, in order that the Bureau may make photostatic copies, one for the Bureau and one for the New York Office, and select the material it desires after said copies are made.

This file contains the personal history of DAVIS in chronological order and copies of legal documents to support this personal history. It is also requested that a photostatic copy of the chronological history of DAVIS be forwarded to the St. Louis Office for the use of this office.

Attorneys Thompson, Mitchell, Thompson and Young have also requested that they be advised of the identity of the documents which are photostated by the Bureau, in order that they may have a record in their file showing what documents have been photostated.

It is requested that this matter receive expeditious attention, as the firm of Thompson, Mitchell, Thompson and Young, has consented to permit this file to be forwarded to the Bureau in Washington with the understanding that it be returned as expeditiously as possible.

RECORDED & ~~INDEXED~~

65-1168-13

Very truly yours,

G. B. NORRIS,
Special Agent in Charge.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 26 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GBN:djh
65-117
cc New York
cc Package

Enc. 1 copy
1 copy destroyed 5-30-42 per ltr 5-22-42

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/12/91 BY SP2 ejc/ma

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CC-150

INDEXED

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

65-1168-13

SEPTEMBER 21, 1939

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SEP 22 1939

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UJG:JAK

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. 55766 [PLEASE CODE UNDERSCORED WORDS]

Transmit the following message to: PITTSBURGH, BOSTON, CINCINNATI AND NEW YORK CITY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ AND PHILADELPHIA

TWO C

CONDUCT VERY DISCREET INVESTIGATION CONCERNING BACKGROUND AND REPUTATION WALTER A JONES, OFFICE MAYFLOWER HOTEL, WASHINGTON DC, WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS AND HIS SECRETARY ERNA F WEHRLE OF DAVIS AND COMPANY THIRTY ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK CITY AND THEIR POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS WITH EACH OTHER. MAY NINETEEN TWENTY SIX JONES GAVE HIS BUSINESS ADDRESS FIVE SIXTEEN ROWLANDS BUILDING COLUMBUS, OHIO, RESIDENCE THIRTEEN EIGHTY FIVE EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS OHIO, OCCUPATION, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, OHIO WESLYAN UNIVERSITY, DELEWARE, OHIO. REFERENCE NATIONAL BANK OF COLUMBUS, OHIO. JONES REPORTED IN NINETEEN THIRTY THREE AS HAVING BEEN MANAGER FOR NUMBER OF YEARS OF EASTERN OHIO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AND JONES OIL COMPANY, ADDRESSES NOT KNOWN, ALSO CONNECTED WITH BENEDUM TREES CORPORATION, BENEDUM TREES BUILDING, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA. JONES APPARENTLY MAN PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE COMMISSION, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA PRESENT DATE. AND DAVIS BOTH BELIEVED TO BE OIL OPERATORS. JONES SAID TO BE WORTH TWO DOLLARS. IN NINETEEN THIRTY THREE, JONES CARRIED BANK ACCOUNT WITH TRUST COMPANY, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA. MARCH, NINETEEN THIRTY NINE, HAD CHECKING ACCOUNT WITH GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY. DAVIS CHECKING ACCOUNT WITH FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS IN THIRTY NINE. IN NINETEEN TWENTY FOUR DAVIS CONNECTED WITH BRITISH PETROLEUM COMPANY LTD, TWENTY ONE STATE STREET, NEW YORK CITY. NINETEEN RESIDED TWENTY CHAPEL STREET, BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS. NINETEEN IS FURNISHED AS REFERENCE IN PASSPORT APPLICATION W. LATIMER GRAY, BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS. EACH OFFICE REQUESTED TO IMMEDIATELY INVESTIGATION SUBMITTING TELETYPE SUMMARY.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TYPE A 30 HOTEL

A M Per

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLM/MLC ON 4-24-91

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 89

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Crowl	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sears	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

JFS:COH

September 22, 1939

Time: 1:45 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS;
ESPIONAGE

SAC Foxworth called from New York and requested that you be informed he checked with the Pan American Air Lines today and learned that the Clipper has left Bermuda en route to Lisbon, Portugal and that Davis is among the passengers. Further, that Davis could not get reservations from Lisbon to Rome. Mr. Foxworth also was advised by the Pan American that in New York Davis sent a wire to the Italian Government asking that that Government have a plane meet him at Lisbon for the purpose of taking him to Rome.

Respectfully,
J. F. SEARS

RECORDED 65-1168-14
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 23 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON TAMM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-12-91 BY SP4 alc/tm

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DocId:34636567 Page 90

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice

San Antonio, Texas
September 20, 1939

~~PERSONAL AND~~
~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

GTJ/ML

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Scarr
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: TELEPHONE SURVEILLANCE IN AND OUT OF MEXICO.
ESPIONAGE.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF Declass. See DATE 5-1-78 DOJ

61-10580 serial X

Dear Sir:

Reference is had to confidential memorandum from the San Antonio office dated April 30, 1938, advising of confidential information obtained relative to the deal ultimately consummated by W. R. DAVIS of New York with the Mexican Government for the purpose of selling expropriated oil by the Mexican Government to the German Government. The memorandum indicates that a great deal of the advance arrangements concerning DAVIS'S deal with the Mexican Government was handled over long distance telephone from New York City to Mexico City and Berlin; also that JOHN L. LEWIS talked with ALEJANDRO CARRILLO in Mexico City at 5:49 P.M. Eastern Standard Time on April 18, 1938, from L.D. Telephone #59, Washington, D. C. relative to the DAVIS contract to sell expropriated oil to Germany. L.D. #59, Washington, D. C. is listed to the United Mine Workers of America.

In this conversation LEWIS told CARRILLO (who is Secretary of the C.T.M. of Mexico, a radical organization headed by VICENTE LOMBARDO TOLEDANO) that England was cancelling "all charters on DAVIS due to the pressure brought by the Royal Dutch Shell on the Bank of England but that DAVIS was absolutely all right and could be depended on, other reports to the contrary notwithstanding." "That Italy and Germany were the only countries with which it would be safe for Mexico to deal and that CARRILLO should see President CARDENAS that night, April 18, 1938, and tell him this without fail."

This telephone call has been verified by the check with the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and the original L.D. ticket #308 has been checked.

I have developed what I believe to be a most advantageous contact in that I am in position to censor practically all long distance calls to and from Mexico City.

65-1168-17X

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1 Copy destroyed-30

DECLASSIFIED BY 2909 DPJ
ON 4-10-78

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DocId:34636567 Page 91

Director, #2 September 20, 1939

There have been in the past 30 or 60 days many mysterious trans-Atlantic telephone calls, although at the present time no trans-Atlantic calls emanating in Mexico to Germany, France, Russia, Poland, or England are being accepted with the exception that Britain will accept trans-Atlantic telephone calls destined to the Bank of England only.

I am transmitting herewith in duplicate a map that I have prepared which discloses that all long distance calls emanating from Mexico City or in fact all in Southern and Eastern Mexico must clear through San Antonio, regardless of the destination, whether they be in the United States or trans-Atlantic. Some of these calls also clear through Dallas and in that case the telephone ticket recording the number calling and the number called will be on record in the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company office at that place. However, long distance calls for Southern points including New Orleans, Mobile, and Florida points clear through San Antonio only. At Mobile calls to ships in the Gulf of Mexico are cleared through that place.

While in some instances telephone calls can originate in Western Mexico at points such as Chihuahua, telephone calls may be cleared through El Paso, and from Hermosillo calls can be cleared through Nogales, Arizona. However, it is interesting to note that any long distance telephone call originating in Western Mexico and Mexico City must clear through San Antonio, Texas.

The two telephone systems in Mexico are the Ericcson and the Mexican. The long distance tickets that will be on file either in San Antonio or Dallas covering calls over the Ericcson System are in 300 series where the call originates in the United States to points in Mexico, and where the call originates in Mexico to points in the United States the tickets are in 400 series. The Mexican Telephone Company tickets on calls originating in the United States are in 100 series and calls originating in Mexico to the United States are in 200 series.

My Informant reports that several weeks ago a Mrs. KIRBY FOX, calling over Mexican Telephone #P 4566, Mexico City, called #891486 Berlin and talked to a Mrs. PETER THELEN, although the call was placed for a Mr. MUELLER.

While it may not have any connection, the following news despatch was published in the San Antonio Evening News dated Sept. 19, 1939:

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Director, #3 September 20, 1939

SPY SENTENCED

"Nancy, France. Sept. 18 AP- MARTIN THELEN, 44-year old German, was sentenced to life imprisonment today after being convicted for Espionage in the Maginot Line sector."

Informant did not catch what was said as the conversation was carried on in German which he does not understand. Informant states that Mr. and Mrs. KIRBY FOX left Mexico during the oil expropriation and went to White Plains, New York and several times talked from that place to Mexico City and Berlin; that Mr. and Mrs. KIRBY FOX are now back in Mexico City.

The identity of Mr. and Mrs. KIRBY FOX will be obtained.

Informant also states that M. ALONZO ERICCSON Telephone #58324 Mexico City, at 11:30 P.M. on Sept. 14, 1939, attempted to call Severin Keller, Telephone 29945, Helsingfors, Finland, however, the call had to clear through England and would not be accepted by the British Government.

A perusal of the map enclosed will show the possibilities here in San Antonio of a surveillance of telephone calls such as I have outlined in this letter. While my Informant is only on [FOIA(b)(7) - (D)] [FOIA(b)(7) - (D)] I can arrange for a fairly good surveillance of long distance calls and will do so if the Bureau will so authorize. It may necessitate the expenditure of a confidential fund not to exceed $50.00 per month. However, my main object in preparing this map was in case of emergency I can arrange for a 24 hour complete surveillance.

Very truly yours,

Gus T. Jones,
Special Agent in Charge.

encl.

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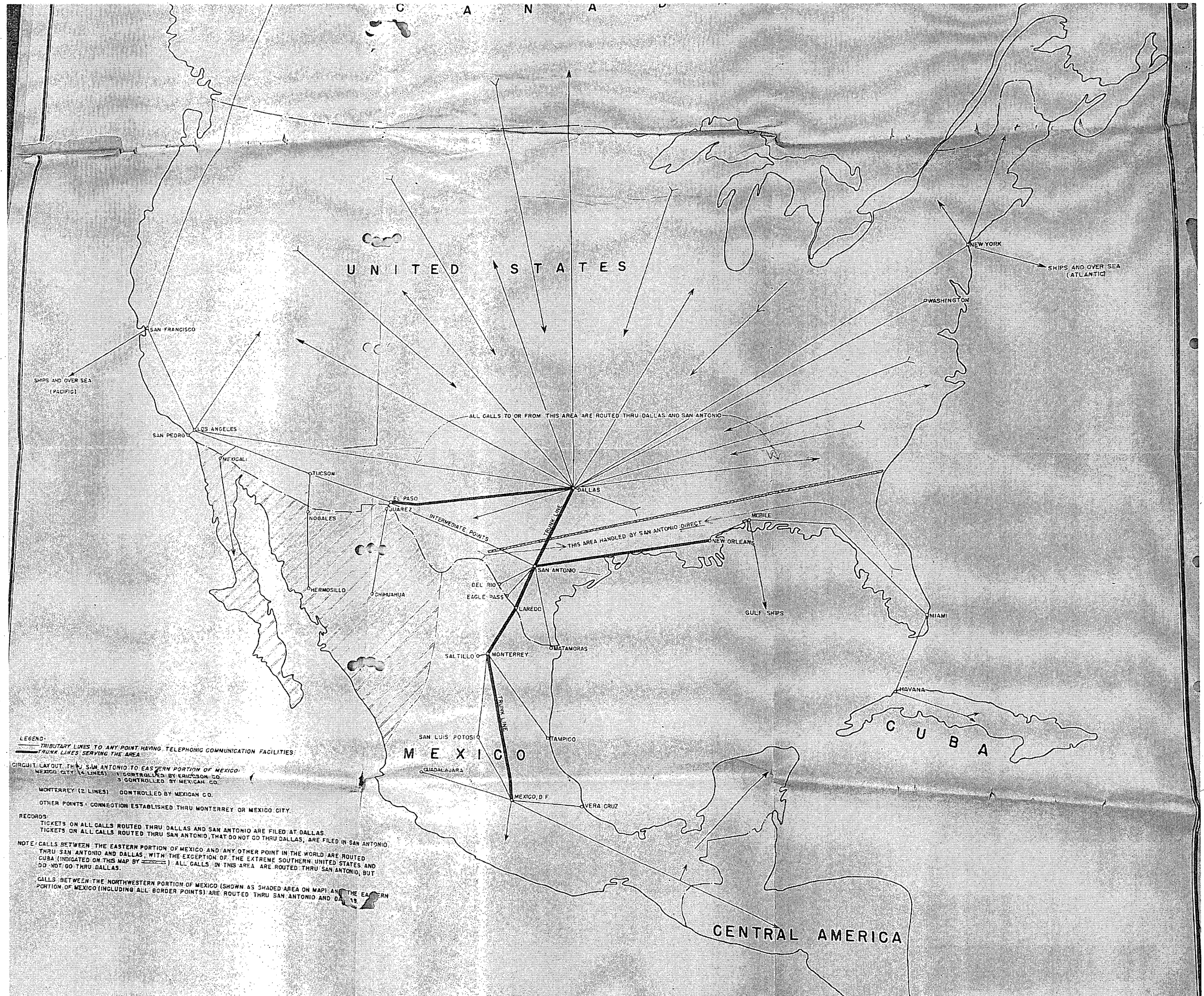
DocId:34636567 Page 94



LEGEND:
——— TRIBUTARY LINES TO ANY POINT HAVING TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION FACILITIES.
——— TRUNK LINES SERVING THE AREA

CIRCUIT LAYOUT THRU SAN ANTONIO TO EASTERN PORTION OF MEXICO:

MEXICO CITY (4 LINES) 1 CONTROLLED BY ERICSSON CO.
3 CONTROLLED BY MEXICAN CO.

MONTERREY (2 LINES) CONTROLLED BY MEXICAN CO.

OTHER POINTS: CONNECTION ESTABLISHED THRU MONTERREY OR MEXICO CITY.

RECORDS:

TICKETS ON ALL CALLS ROUTED THRU DALLAS AND SAN ANTONIO ARE FILED AT DALLAS.
TICKETS ON ALL CALLS ROUTED THRU SAN ANTONIO, THAT DO NOT GO THRU DALLAS, ARE FILED IN SAN ANTONIO

NOTE: CALLS BETWEEN THE EASTERN PORTION OF MEXICO AND ANY OTHER POINT IN THE WORLD ARE ROUTED THRU SAN ANTONIO AND DALLAS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE EXTREME SOUTHERN UNITED STATES AND CUBA (INDICATED ON THIS MAP BY ———) ALL CALLS IN THIS AREA ARE ROUTED THRU SAN ANTONIO, BUT DO NOT GO THRU DALLAS.

CALLS BETWEEN THE NORTHWESTERN PORTION OF MEXICO (SHOWN AS SHADED AREA ON MAP) AND THE EASTERN PORTION OF MEXICO (INCLUDING ALL BORDER POINTS) ARE ROUTED THRU SAN ANTONIO AND DA[illegible]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK NY FILE NO. 65-128 VA

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK CITY	9/22/39	9/20,21,22/39	WALTER J. HIGGINS

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS	ESPIONAGE

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Personal history and financial background of WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS obtained from the files of the BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU, BISHOP'S SERVICE, PROUDFOOT'S COMMERCIAL SERVICE and NEW YORK TIMES INDEX, all in N.Y.C. Records of foreign and domestic communications of DAVIS and affiliates checked and results thus far achieved forwarded to the Bureau. Investigation being continued in this district.

- P -

DETAILS:

APPROVED AND FORWARDED
SLIP(S) OF
DATE 5-1-78

This report is predicated upon telephonic instructions received on September 20, 1939 from Mr. E. A. TAMM of the Bureau, who requested that appropriate investigation be conducted to ascertain the background, activities and reputation of WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS.

It will be noted that in some instances the information contained in this report may overlap and be repetitious, but for the sake of thoroughness full information was obtained from each source contacted and is being set out herein in its entirety as received.

DECLASSIFIED BY 8909 DPS/dlf
ON 4-10-78

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
Foxworth.		65-[illegible]/168 + 15
3 Copies destroyed - 30		RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
5 Bureau (via SPEC. DELIVERY)		SEP 26 1939
3 New York		25 SEP 53 10 33 AM '39
		SEP 26 P.M.

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

NW 63226
DocId:34636567 Page 95

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents E. C. Parkhurst, and Joseph A. Genau on September 21, 1939, at New York City.

The files of the Better Business Bureau of the City of New York were made available by W. P. COLLIS, Assistant General Manager, 280 Broadway, New York City, and contained the following information with reference to WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS, and certain oil companies with which he was affiliated.

On October 27, 1937, JOHN H. CARUTHERS, 705 Olive St., St. Louis, Missouri, called at the office of the Better Business Bureau, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by arrangement with WILLIAM KRIEBEL, Cashier of the Pennsylvania Company (a bank). CARUTHERS is an attorney with a firm representing the Mercantile Commerce Bank & Trust Company of St. Louis, Missouri, and has made an extensive investigation, a summary of which is contained in a letter from the Philadelphia Office to the New York Office of the Better Business Bureau as follows:

"From 1910 to 1918, W. R. DAVIS was a locomotive engineer employed by the M.O. & G. Railroad during which time he promoted the BEST TEST OIL & GAS COMPANY. Either during the same period, or shortly thereafter at Joplin and Webb City, Missouri, DAVIS promoted several zinc mines, including the Success Zinc Company, and the Malcona Zinc Company.

Thereafter at Tulsa, Oklahoma, DAVIS promoted the MALCONA PETROLEUM COMPANY and the DAVIS MALCONA COMPANY. A judgment in the amount of $169,000.00 was obtained against DAVIS at Tulsa, Oklahoma in connection with which it was claimed that he misappropriated the funds of the DAVIS MALCONA COMPANY.

At Eldorado, Arkansas, DAVIS organized or was affiliated with the Crusader Pipe Line Company and the Crusader Oil Producing Company. He purchased supplies from the Continental Supply Company with which company he had an account with a balance in excess of three and one-half million dollars. A suit was filed in upper court at Shreveport, Louisiana by the Crusader Oil Producing Company in which a judgment against W. R. DAVIS in the amount of $83,000.00 was obtained. This judgment was reversed by the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana.

In 1928 DAVIS was a broker and finder for the Arkansas Natural Gas Company. Numerous suits and judgments were obtained at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Shreveport, Louisiana."

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The Better Business Bureau of New York City received an inquiry from its Philadelphia Office on October 16, 1937, which indicated that DAVIS is an old-time stock swindler in Philadelphia, where he operated in 1923, and 1924; that he was alleged to be in Boston in 1937, and was at one time connected with the DAVIS MALCONA COMPANY, which later went into receivership.

In 1936, according to the records of the Better Business Bureau of the City of New York, DAVIS was connected with the Foreign Oil Company, Inc.

An inquiry received by the Better Business Bureau of the City of New York on February 9, 1937, indicated that DAVIS & COMPANY, INC. was selling oil to Germany according to a local bank,(The name of local bank not known).

An inquiry received by the Better Business Bureau of the City of New York in May, 1933, indicated that DAVIS was in some way connected with the National Corporation of Peru, with offices at 57 Wall Street, New York City.

An inquiry on April 29, 1936, indicated that DAVIS was connected with the Pacific-Amazon Railway, no address shown.

The files of the Better Business Bureau contain several clippings from the New York Times. A clipping under date of August 24, 1938, dated White Plains, New York indicates that investors brought suit against W. R. DAVIS in connection with the DAVIS MCAONE COMPANY of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and obtained judgment of $169,123.00.

A clipping dated July 7, 1938, indicates that W. R. DAVIS & COMPANY were to handle exports to REICH.

A clipping dated February 13, 1939, refers to a New Mexico move to becloud the oil issue. Said clipping refers to DONALD RICHBERG, and PATRICK J. HURLEY, representatives of the Standard & Sinclair Oil Company.

Said clipping mentions that W. R. DAVIS recently executed a seventeen million dollar barter deal with Germany.

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Clipping dated April 25, 1939, indicates that W. R. DAVIS was freed in the Court of Appeals of London.

W. P. COLLIS, Assistant General Manager, Better Business Bureau, 280 Broadway, New York City, advised that WILLIAM R. DAVIS carried accounts with the First National Bank of Boston, Massachusetts, and the Chase National Bank of the City of New York; that most of DAVIS' banking business is transacted with the First National Bank of Boston, Massachusetts.

The files of the Better Business Bureau at New York City reflect a letter dated April 22, 1932, signed by RALPH A. ALEXANDER, Manager, Financial Division, Boston Better Business Bureau to the Better Business Bureau of New York City, wherein it mentions that WILLIAM R. DAVIS was operating under the title of DAVIS & COMPANY, and that DAVIS & COMPANY was registered as a broker in Massachusetts on September 17, 1931; that DAVIS is a promoter, and has been active in South America where he at one time was connected with the Pacific-Amazon Railroad Corporation. Also, that DAVIS was reported to be interested in the construction of an oil pipe line, and was said to have invested a substantial amount of his own funds in this project; that one of the Standard Oil Companies was to take over the project, but for some reason, failed to do so, and as a result, DAVIS was financially embarrassed; that DAVIS at one time was reported to be identified as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the TRUSS CORD TIRE COMPANY, which had acquired the business of the defunct RAINBOW TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY of Delaware, Ohio; that in December, 1930, DAVIS was reported negotiating with the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce for the construction-made natural gas pipe line between Sunbright Field in Tennessee and Chattanooga, Tennessee, which did not materalize; that when DAVIS first became active in Boston, in the latter part of 1931, he was selling or was planning to sell a block of stock of the PURE CHEESE CORPORATION, 1375 West Lake Street, Chicago, Illinois; that DAVIS was interested in an enterprise known as the National Corporation of Peru, which was described as a corporation having sold rights for colonizing a section of Peru.

The Better Business Bureau communicated with the Consul General of Peru in New York City, and received the following information relative to the National Corporation of Peru.

"There is no record in this office regarding the granting by the Peruvian Government to the National Corporation of Peru of any rights as outlined in your letter of February 18.

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However, I understand that under the LEGUIA Administration a railroad and colonizing contract was awarded to Mr. BERTRAND LEE, which was later cancelled, and transferred to WILLIAM R. DAVIS, and his associates. When the above-mentioned Administration was overthrown, this contract was questioned, and last year was under discussion, but so far as I know, no decision has been taken.

If you are interested in this matter, I should suggest that you communicate with the American Commercial Attache at Lima, who undoubtedly will give you the information required."

In the letter of the Boston Better Business Bureau dated April 22, 1932, the following paragraph also appears:

"Recently we have received inquiries to the effect that DAVIS has been endeavoring to secure a woman secretary to accompany him to South America in connection with his purported activities there."

Mr. ALEXANDER in his letter requested that so much of the information contained in the letter as was desired by the Better Business Bureau of New York be passed to W. D. KAUFMANN, New York Times Classified Advertising Department.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent M. R. Griffin on September 21, 1939:

Agent contacted the Bishop's Service, 76 Beaver St., and examined their file covering W. R. DAVIS. It was noted that on November 18, 1938 a letter was written by Bishop's Service to Subscriber 4643, in which the following information was given.

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS was in Europe at that time, and his company, W. R. Davis & Company, of 30 Rockefeller Plaza, refused to give any important information regarding him. They advised, however, that DAVIS'S operations took him to various parts of Europe. It was noted that W. R. Davis & Company has an office in Mexico, and that several months prior to November 18, 1938 DAVIS was in Mexico City, supposed to be acting for the Mexican Government in the sale of seized oil. Newspapers stated he had a suit filed against him in London. April 7, 1938 newspapers advised he accepted 1,080,000 barrels of Mexican oil in part payment for pipes and machinery recently brought from Germany. DAVIS, according to newspapers, informed that the oil was going to his plant in Hamburg, Germany, which plant is capable of producing 15,000 barrels daily. DAVIS stated he had tankers available to ~~manufacture~~ move the oil overseas, and had barges ready in Germany to move it within the Nazi state. He said that the remodeling of their Hamburg plant would be completed in October 1938.

Newspaper item dated August 6, 1938 advised five tankers left Mexico August 5th, with Government oil and gas, indicating that W. R. DAVIS'S difficulties over the Government contract for the sale to Germany, Italy and Sweden, of $10,000,000. of oil had been overcome. This oil was to be paid for 60 per cent in machinery and 40 per cent in cash. Newspapers further indicated that two ships, the S.S. PATTER and S.S. POLYCARP sailed for Hamburg; that the Japanese leased S.S. C. G. BOVARIG sailed for either Hamburg or Yokohama; that the S.S. MYRIAM sailed for an undisclosed port, believed to be German; that the Norwegian tanker ATHOE was believed to be proceeding to Houston, Texas.

On August 24, 1938, newspapers advised that a suit to obtain title to the Scarsdale estate occupied by DAVIS was disposed in the Supreme Court when Justice GERALD NOLAN reserved decision

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on a motion to appoint a receiver of the estate. The newspaper account advised that for nine years investors in the defunct Davis Macone Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma had pursued DAVIS around the world in an attempt to collect $169,123. judgment obtained in Oklahoma on the failure of said company, according to ORVILLE SANBORN, Counsel. The Attorney said that the Scarsdale estate had been bought last December for $95,000. by MRS. DAVIS, with Christmas money given by her husband.

On August 25, 1938, newspapers advised that the Eastern States Petroleum Company had announced it received the first cargo of crude oil purchased under contract from the Mexican Government at its plant in Houston, Texas. DAVIS was mentioned as acting for the Mexican Government as intermediary in this deal.

On September 22, 1938, newspapers told of a deal whereby the Panhandle Producing & Refining Company would buy $600,370. worth of foreign oil through W. R. Davis & Company, 30 Rockefeller Plaza. This purchase was to be paid for with 253,450 shares of stock of the Panhandle Producing & Refining Company. DAVIS & Co. was to get 235,439 shares and L. S. Carter & Co., Inc., 18011 shares, as broker.

On October 18, 1938, newspapers told of the conviction of W. R. DAVIS by an English judge, charged with conspiracy to defraud a Danish oil company. DAVIS was found guilty in the Kings Bench Division of the High Court, London. Justice LEWIS, in handing down the decision, described DAVIS, the principal defendant, as "an unscrupulous and ruthless financier whose testimony he could not accept". HENRY WARREN WILSON, of New York, DAVIS'S associate, was also a defendant, as were the Foreign Oil Company of Boston, of which DAVIS was President, and the Crusader Petroleum Industries, Ltd. of London, of which WILSON was Managing Director.

On October 21, 1938, newspapers announced that authorization to list 253,450 common shares of the Panhandle Producing & Refining Co. was withdrawn by the New York Stock Exchange. This action did not affect the other stock of the company, which was in the hands of the public. When confronted with the information about the conviction of DAVIS in London, his office advised that DAVIS and WILSON were planning an appeal.

DAVIS'S PERSONAL HISTORY

DAVIS was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on February 10, 1889. He was graduated from Stark University, a college preparatory school in Montgomery, at the age of 16. He became a news agent for the Union News Company on trains running out of southern cities, and had a similar position in Salt Lake City. He was a railroad brakeman, locomotive fireman, and comedian on a vaudeville circuit playing in western and southern cities. He also worked on various tramp steamers.

From 1908 to 1910 he was a locomotive fireman employed by the Texas-Pacific Railway, and shortly before he left this position, was an engineer. He later was an engineer on the M.O.G. Railway of Muskogee, Oklahoma, for a short time, and was a Chief Engineer of Construction on the same road, building a 100-mile railroad for them. He became interested in the oil business as a promoter and prospector, but did not resign his position with the M.O.G. Railway until 1918. In 1914 he became interested in Joplin, Missouri in the lead and zinc mines, and operated the Gauther Mines, the Success Mines, and the Malocona Mines, and claims to have built the first 500-ton consentration plant ever erected. He claims to have sold these mining properties in 1916 or 1917 to the Kenefest Zinc Co., which was financed by Pynchon & Co. of New York, receiving a small fortune for the same. Shortly afterwards, he is understood to have lost most of this money in ill-advised investments, and was apparently very susceptible to a scheme, without even investigating it.

In July 1917 he enlisted in the U.S. Army in the Engineer Corps as a private, in Washington, D.C. From there he is reported to have gone to Joplin, Missouri, where he recruited a regiment known as the 27th Engineers, composed of trench men who knew mining work. At the front in France he was assigned to the 27th Engineers Allied Railway, and made a Second Lieutenant, and saw active service at the front. He was later put in comman of Companies A, B, and C, and E of the First Engineers, and saw action with this command. He is believed to have been badly wounded in the leg, and also had all his teeth ripped out by a German bayonet.

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In 1919 he returned to the United States and spent six months at the Fort Sheridan Hospital, Fort Sheridan, Illinois, where he was sent for an operation.

Following his War service, he was interested in various oil companies, one of which was the American Branch of the Crusader Oil Co., owned by the British-Mexican Petroleum Co. He also developed oil properties known as the Largo Petroleum Co. in Venezuela, in which he purchased a one-half interest for the British-Mexican Petroleum Co. He is understood to have received a salary of $50,000. a year, and in addition, got $1,500,000. for his efforts in the development and sale of its properties. Following that he went into the natural gas business known as the Industrial Gas Co., of Marshal, Texas, with a branch in Eldorado, Arkansas. This proposition failed because of the alleged intervention of the Standard Oil Company, and DAVIS lost all his money.

In 1926 he claimed to have borrowed $500,000. from the Old Colony Trust Co., and organized the Arkansas Natural Gas Corporation, selling it on January 5, 1928 at a profit of $1,500,000. Since then he has been strongly interested in a Peruvian proposition involving a concession of mineral and oil producing land, and includes building a large railroad.

In 1931 (August), he became interested in promoting the Pure Cheese Co., and became registered as a securities broker in Boston for the purpose of disposing of this issue of stock. This did not meet with success, and the company is not believed to be operating profitably. More recently he has been instrumental in organizing the Foreign Oil Company, which represents an oil promotion in Vera Cruz, Mexico.

DAVIS is married for the second time, having been divorced from his first wife about seven years ago. He has two children living, both young boys. One son, W. R. DAVIS, JR., a Boston aviator, was killed in an airplane accident on October 18, 1933. DAVIS formerly lived in Longwood Towers, an exclusive apartment hotel in Brookline, Mass.

Upon examination of the Boston court records, it was found that on January 5, 1933 an execution in the amount of $656.60 was entered against DAVIS in favor of Farber & Company, for dress clothes purchased July 6, 1932. A Cadillac automobile, registration 698,396, was attached.

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DAVIS gave up the individual style Davis & Co., under which he operated as a securities broker, in Massachusetts on April 4, 1933, when he organized Davis & Company, Inc. This company has a capital stock of 5,000 no par common shares, of which 703 shares are outstanding, and $7,016.30 paid thereon. A statement of this company's affairs as of December 31, 1936 indicated a very poor financial condition.

The Assets consisted of -

Cash	$ 114.52
Accounts Receivable	87,725.80
Notes Receivable	49.20
Suspense	17,031.87
Deficit	7,356.04

The Liabilities consisted of -

Accounts Payable	103,185.46
Notes & Acceptances Payable	2,000.00
Accrued Interst	75.77
Capital Stock	7,016.30

From a source deemed reliable, it is understood the Crusader Oil Co., in which DAVIS is associated, owns $5,000,000. worth of oil property in Oklahoma. DAVIS is also interested in a corporation known as the Foreign Oil Co., organized February 27, 1933, and which corporation owns considerable oil properties in Mexico. This company turned over most of its assets to another company known as the Parent Petroleum Industries, Ltd. of London, upon assumption by the latter company of the Foreign Oil Co.'s liabilities. The Parent Co. is said to have a capital of £4,000,000 Sterling, and reported to have refineries in Hamburg, Germany, and valuable oil properties in Texas, Louisiana, and Mexico. It is said also to own oil tankers and equipment. The principals in this company are said to be DAVIS, LORD INVERFORTH, and T.C.J. BURGESS. LORD INVERFORTH is known to be one of the biggest shipping men in London, and was Minister of Munitions for Great Britain during the World War. He now appears as Director of 36 of the largest companies in England, among them being Lloyd's Bank, Ltd.

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T.C.J. BURGESS is on the board of 7 large English companies, and is Chairman and Joint Managing Director of the London and Thames Haven Coal Wharfs, Ltd., which has a capital in the neighborhood of $20,000,000. DAVIS is said to have a substantial interest in the Parent Petroleum Industries, Ltd. DAVIS is associated in business at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, with AUSTIN B. TAYLOR and SAMUEL RAYMOND THORNBURY.

AUSTIN B. TAYLOR is 41 years old, married, and a son-in-law of Senator JESS DAVIS. He is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas. TAYLOR is President of the Texas Crusader Oil Co. of Houston, Texas. During the World War he served with the U. S. Army as a First Lieutenant in charge of Aviation Instruction. He is a lawyer by profession, and a member of the Arkansas Bar. For about two years he was a partner in a law firm in Arkansas, and then began practising as an individual with an office in Eldorado, Arkansas. Shortly thereafter, he became associated with the Crusader Co., where he remained until 1931. From 1931 to 1935 he was the attorney for the Foreign Oil Co. in Chicago, Illinois.

SAMUEL RAYMOND THORNBURY is a native of Evanston, Illinois, and is in his 40's. He is single, and said to be a graduate of Ohio Weslyan University. After leaving college, he moved to Chicago and became secretary to LEONARD A. BUSBY, formerly president and director of the Chicago Surfave Lines. He later became associated with the Palmer Trust at 80 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. The Palmer Trust was better known as the Potter Palmer Estate. He became General Manager of the Orlando Grove Co., with offices at 30 No. Michigan Ave., Chicago. In December 1925 he resigned and became Secretary and Treasurer of the Whole Grain Wheat Co., a $5,000,000. Arizona corporation, and became an officer in the Whole Grain Wheat Co. of Illinois, a $2500. corporation organized in 1917. The Whole Grain Wheat Co. was controlled by CHARLES H. WOODWARD, a man of poor standing. THORNBURY resigned and became a free lance finance man. He became Vice President and Director of the Investigation and Finance Corporation, a former Illinois corporation organized in 1926, capitalized at $100,000. They had an office at 105 West Adams St., Chicago, and investigated going concerns. He was later associated with LAWRENCE W. SCUDDER, President of Lawrence Scudder & Co. He also was President of the National Public Utility Co., a former Delaware corporation organized in May 1928. THORNBURY was also a Director in the Ravenswood National Bank.

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NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

In addition to the above mentioned letter, the following newspaper clippings were found in Bishop's file.

New York Times - 8-24-38	Clipping entitled "Investors Sue W. R. Davis"
New York Times - 4-25-39	Clipping headed "British Justice Clears Americans"
New York Times - 2-24-39	Clipping headed "Mexican Plan on Plain Oil Deal"
New York Times - 1-19-39	Clipping headed "Mexico Pushes Use of Facist Goods"
New York Times - 1-3-39	Clipping headed "Exchange Accepts Barter by Mexico"
New York Times - 12-9-38	Clipping headed "Mexico and Reich in Big Barter Deal"
New York Times - 10-18-38	Clipping headed "W. R. Davis Found Guilty in Oil Trial"
New York Times - 10-21-31	Clipping headed "Exchange Cancels Oil Stock Listing"
New York Times- 8-25-38	Clipping headed "Mexican Oil Cargo Shipped to Texas"
New York Times - 9-22-38	Clipping headed "German Steel Deal"
New York Journal- 9-22-38	Clipping headed "Pipe Line Deal in Barter"

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents G. C. Parkhurst and Joseph A. Genau on September 21, 1939, re WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS.

HARRY KADELL, secretary, Proudfoot's Commercial Agency, Inc., 70 Pine St., New York City, furnished Agents with a report dated February 17, 1937 on WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS, care of Davis & Co., Inc., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, N.Y.C., which embodied the following information.

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS is 49 years of age, married, and resides in Scarsdale, N.Y. He rents his residence in Scarsdale, with an option to buy, although he has not exercised said option. It is expected that he will do so shortly at a reasonable figure, having already invested a good deal of money in the property in the way of improvements. The property is said to be assessed at from $200,000. to $300,000. DAVIS is a member of the Westchester Country Club, is a Blue Lodge Mason, and a Shriner. DAVIS has always been known as a promoter, his activity being in the oil fields of Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas, Mexico, and Nicaragua. He started his career as a railroad engineer, and was promoted to master mechanic, and then went into the oil business in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He drilled about 27 dry holes almost in succession.

About 1922 or 1923, DAVIS became connected with the Benedum-Trees interests in Pittsburgh, Pa., and organized what was known as the Malcona Petroleum Co. He was president of this company, which was eventually unsuccessful, and the Pittsburgh interests lost their entire investment of about $135,000. DAVIS has denied charges that the Pittsburgh interests made to the effect that he "did not give them a square deal; that he mismanaged the business and misappropriated funds". The company was liquidated by receivers at a total loss. DAVIS also organized a company known as the Davis Malcona Petroleum Co., which drilled a number of wells, but this concern went into receivership about 1924, and its affairs "were closed up with a complete loss to stockholders and also to all creditors".

In 1925, DAVIS individually owed a large number of bills in and around Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a number of them had been reduced to judgment. There is herewith quoted in part from a report from Proudfoot's Commercial Agency, Inc., Tulsa,

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Oklahoma correspondence, the following: "He (Davis) probably would have no credit beheres at all. Many persons who have dealt with him have felt, and still feel that his business dealings have not been what they should have been, and a number have charged him with fraud. However, he has always heatedly denied the charges, and the fact of the matter probably is that his misfortunes were due to hard luck rather than to any conscious wrong doing". It was then understood that he had been settling some of the obligations by paying approximately 50 cents on the dollar.

DAVIS'S promotions have taken him to South American countries, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, England, Germany, etc. A few years ago he attempted to establish a national railway system in Peru, but this was not successful due, it is said, to political and economic conditions then existing in that country.

In 1931 he was identified with the Pure Cheese Corporation of Chicago, Illinois, which also proved unsuccessful. Subsequent to the failure of the Davis Malcona Petroleum Co., DAVIS came to New York City as Manager of the Crusader Oil Co., and Vice President of the Crusader Pipe Line Co., the stock of which was owned by the British-Mexican Petroleum Co., Ltd. of London. He was not a stockholder in any of these companies, but was merely engaged to buy oil in the Oklahoma fields for the London company. DAVIS went to Boston in 1930 and registered as a broker, but was not successful. He then formed Davis & Co., a Massachusetts corporation chartered April 1933, with an authorized capital of 5000 shares of no par common stock. This company continues to maintain headquarters at 131 State St., Boston, Mass., but it is gradually being liquidated, a process which is estimated to take about a year.

DAVIS & CO., INC., of 30 Rockefeller Plaza, was chartered under the Nevada laws on June 28, 1936, and was formed for the purpose of continuing the activities of the Massachusetts corporation of the same name. WILLIAM R. DAVIS is its President and dominant factor, in fact he "is" the company. Davis & Co., Inc. functions as an oil managing corporation in the producing, transporting and financing of petroleum. It also holds stock interest in other oil operating companies which it finances.

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It is understood that DAVIS has obtained large and supposedly valuable contracts for the purchase and delivery of oil for certain German interests. This business consists of buying of oil from American producers, and then such oil is sold under the terms of the contract to the German interests. Financial data are not released, the management contenting themselves with the statement that sufficient capital is available for its operation, and they do their principal banking with a Boston institution. The Boston bank makes advances to Davis & Co., Inc., secured by oil cargoes and contracts. Details are confidential, due to the fact that through an involved process they are able to surmount the Governmental restriction covering the export of capital from Germany. The bank, however, states that the relationship has been very satisfactory; that advances are rapidly liquidated, and they are pleased to continue with the arrangement. Another affiliated company, the Foreign Oil Co., Inc. of Boston, Mass., which was chartered under Maine laws in December 1933 as successor to a Massachusetts corporation of the same name formed in February 1933, is inactive, and some of its assets are being gradually transferred to DAVIS & CO., INC. and other oil companies in which DAVIS and his associates are interested, the names of which the management declines.

In 1934 the Foreign Oil Co., Inc. owned 75 per cent of the capital stock of the Tuspan Oil Co., which owns oil lands in Mexico and elsewhere "having a potential value estimated at $25,000,000. or more, but on which only a very limited amount of development has as yet been done". DAVIS also has a substantial interest in the Parent Petroleum Industries, Ltd. of London, in which he is associated with two Englishmen.

Sources close to DAVIS'S affairs advise that on paper DAVIS is worth several millions, and that his fortunes are tied up largely in five or six different corporations, none of whose stock is listed on therecognized exchanges, and none of which is known to be paying any dividends, his only income from these sources being in the form of salaries.

One informant advised that DAVIS would usually be good for a commitment of $25,000. to $50,000.; that DAVIS is not the type who would assume an obligation he could not liquidate, and he is believed to be worth several hundred thousands of dollars, aside from his investments in his companies,

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a good part of which is known to have been in the form of cash until at least very recently. This information is in rather sharp contrast to reports received in 1934 to the effect that DAVIS "has been hard pressed for ready money and his tangible responsibility is practically nil". However, it was reported at the same time that through the German contracts already referred to, DAVIS was "in a fair way to make a very large fortune within the course of the next few years, the amount of which it is estimated may even run into the millions of dollars". The above report lists references as follows:

LATIMER GRAY, Vice President, First National Bank of Boston, Mass., who gave most of the above information.

J. LEE COFFMAN, who was Secretary and a Director of Davis & Co., Inc., until January 31, 1937. MR. COFFMAN more or less confirmed the information given by the First National Bank of Boston, Mass.

The subscribers listed on the aforementioned report are as follows:

HERBERT LUDLAM, JR., account Great Atlantic & Pacific Co., 420 Lexington Ave., N.Y.C. (Personal) 2-17-37.

Commercial National Bank, N.Y.C., 3-9-37.

Chase National Bank, N.Y.C., 3-11-37.

National City Bank, N.Y.C., 5-20-37.

Guaranty Trust Co., N.Y.C., 5-24-37.

New York Trust Co., N.Y.C., 7-23-37

George F. Handel, 165 Broadway, N.Y.C., 2-16-38.

Cities Service, N.Y.C., 4-19-38.

Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, 4-27-38.

Sinclair Refining Co. (Wollney), 8-3-38.

Bank of U.S., N.Y.C., 2-18-39.

Bank of New York, N.Y.C., 6-16-39.

First National Bank, N.Y.C., 8-2-39.

Freeport Sulphur Co., 8-4-39.

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The following information was obtained from a report of PROUDFOOT'S COMMERCIAL AGENCY, INC., which report is dated February 24, 1938, and bears the heading "HENRY WARREN WILSON". This report is marked "STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL" and "EXTREME CAUTION". The information in this report is set forth because of the close association of HENRY WARREN WILSON with WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS.

WILSON'S address is given as 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York City; his age as around 50; his residence as the SAVOY PLAZA HOTEL. He is married, being the second husband of a wife who has two grown children, one of them married. WILSON and his wife travel much of the time.

He was born in Minnesota and attended, for a short time, the University of Minnesota. Prior to the World War he was a real estate salesman in the West.

In 1917 he obtained a commission as Captain in the United States Army and served until 1919, being honorably discharged as a Major in the Infantry. He served in France where he met Colonel HAMBLETON, under whom he worked in the Adjutant General's offices.

Subsequent to the World War, Colonel HAMBLETON took WILSON into the well known securities house, HAMBLETON & CO. of Baltimore, Md., which company had branches in New York City and elsewhere. WILSON had no previous experience in this line of work but was put in the bond department of the New York branch; he later became Manager of the wholesale bond department. He was highly regarded by his superiors and handled some of the company's outside interests, namely the affairs of the WELTE-MIGNON CO., and its subsidiaries ESTEY-WELTE CORPORATION, and the ESTEY PIANO CO., etc. WILSON became Treasurer of these companies. The WELTE-MIGNON CO. was the parent company and WILSON was taken in to assist in the reorganization and in securing new capital. It is reported that he raised $500,000 and effected changes in the management. The reorganization was completed in 1927. In 1928 a group of brokerage houses acquired the new corporation.

WILSON was Treasurer of the NORTH AMERICA DISCOUNT CORPORATION during the time when he was with the WELTE-MIGNON CO.

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The NORTH AMERICA DISCOUNT CORPORATION was engaged in financing the sales of the WELTE-MIGNON COMPANY.

In 1928, WILSON left the WELTE-MIGNON CO. and went back to HAMBLETON & CO., becoming Vice-president of this company. He left in 1929. While with the HAMBLETON & CO., firm, he represented said firm in its dealings with COSMOPOLITAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, of which he was a Director. He was also Vice-president and Director of HANCOCK, which was affiliated with COSMOPOLITAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, in that it discounted the insurance premium notes for the insurance company.

HAMBLETON & COMPANY got into financial difficulties during the depression, long after WILSON left it.

In 1924, WILSON was President of the STATE BOND & MORTGAGE COMPANY, withdrawing from said company upon learning the standing of the men who organized same.

In 1929, after leaving HAMBLETON & COMPANY, he became associated with WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS, an oil promoter, and endeavored to negotiate concessions from the Peruvian Government, which endeavors were discontinued due to the stock market crash. WILSON went to work for MANTLE LAMP COMPANY OF AMERICA, a large Chicago concern and stayed with them until 1933, in an advisory capacity. He assisted MR. JOHNSON of that concern.

During the balance of 1933 and 1934, he was in Peru, South America, with DAVIS, trying to get concessions from Peru for oil properties. He later became Vice-president of DAVIS & CO. which was formed by WILLIAM R. DAVIS as a Massachusetts corporation, and which was succeeded by a Nevada corporation of the same name on June 3, 1936. WILSON intimated that he has a financial interest in DAVIS & CO., but the facts as obtained from other sources considered reliable, indicated that he is an employee of DAVIS & CO.

In 1935, WILSON spent much time in Europe for DAVIS & CO., for the purpose of negotiating for the construction of refineries in Germany and elsewhere. He was in London, England, until the end of 1936 as the Managing Director of the CRUSADER PETROLEUM, INTERESTS, LTD. (apparently the CRUSADER PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD.), the parent company of the company which operated

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the Hamburg, Germany refinery. WILSON went to Mexico from London in 1937 and spent a large part of the year in Mexico for DAVIS &nCOMPANY.

In May 1937 WILSON assisted in organizing the CRUSADER PETROLEUM, INC., asubsidiary of DAVIS & CO., which own oil properties in Kansas, Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. WILSON is President of CRUSADER PETROLEUM, INC. which took over the FLEETBORN OIL CORP. another DAVIS concern. This involved the transfer of four millions of dollars in oil properties from FLEETBORN OIL CORPORATION to CRUSADER PETROLEUM INC.

Nothing of a detrimental character is known about WILSON as to his integrity and his general standing.

In 1931, a judgment in the amount of $1,577.00 on a lease dispute by a New York realty company was obtained. This judgment remains unsatisfied according to the records, but WILSON states he paid it.

WILSON is described as a sharp trader, however, he impresses people as being "dumb". He negotiated for the acquisition of properties by the CRUSADER PETROLEUM INC. and put over some sharp deals whereby the owners of the properties were outtraded of their holdings by him at an unattractive figure. DAVIS & CO. put up very little, if any of its own money, and borrowed from a bank. One person who sold property to CRUSADER PETROLEUM INC. put the money in DAVIS & CO. The name of this person is not shown.

DAVIS & CO. is a holding company. The set-up is complicated. It has a subsidiary called the PARENT PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD., in which two English men are interested, namely LORD INVERFORTH of London and MR. BURGESS, both reputedly very wealthy. The PARENT PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD. controls the CRUSADER PETROLEUM INTERESTS,LTD. which is in turn controls subsidiaries in Germany and Scandinavia and the National Refineries of Ireland which had been building a refinery in Dublin.

DAVIS & CO. ships domestic oil aggragating 10,000 barrels per day to be refined by the Hamburg, Germany plant, the proceeds being used to purchase oil supplies in Germany for DAVIS & COMPANY to use in its domestic and Mexican operations, the excess of such supplies being sold.

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Refining plants are being established in Scandinavian countries particularly in Finland and Esthonia by the English affiliate of DAVIS & CO. The English associates of DAVIS have an investment of well over ten millions of dollars in these and other enterprises of DAVIS & CO.

The bank relations of DAVIS & CO. are reported as entirely satisfactory.

In the past DAVIS has been under criticism in that he usually "plays" with other people's money.

In 1925 DAVIS had considerable trouble in Oklahoma and Louisiana, where a number of judgments were obtained. These were later satisfied after DAVIS put through a deal with SEAGRAVE INTERESTS in Louisiana which netted DAVIS a good profit.

DAVIS & CO. has three subsidiaries in Mexico, two of which own oil properties and one of which is a trading company of materials.

The Crusader pipe line venture was to have been used for the transportation of cheap oil from the Smackover Oil Fields. In this DAVIS was bucking up against the large oil companies and when the pipe line was completed no oil was available to run through it. Creditors of the CRUSADER PIPE LINE CO. liquidated it. It is reported that the STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF INDIANA had a contract to patronize a pipe line but reneged on the contract, however, a more reliable source reports that DAVIS was foolish in trying to buck the large companies.

It is reported that some of the foreign oil companies are prejudiced against DAVIS and his affiliated foreign interests because of the fact that they are building plants in the countries herein mentioned. DAVIS is expanding very rapidly, largely on borrowed money.

WILSON is going along with DAVIS & CO. and his position becomes increasingly important as DAVIS' organizations increase in scope. WILSON maintains a joint checking account with his wife MRS. E. E. WILSON at a mid-town bank (name of bank not given) which account shows a moderate balance, and is non-borrowing.

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A memorandum attached to the foregoing report of PROUDFOOT'S COMMERCIAL AGENCY, INC. indicates that WILSON also has an account at the MANUFACTURERS TRUST COMPANY, 55 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C., which account is a joint account; that the Rockefeller Plaza branch of the CHASE NATIONAL BANK carries a routine account for DAVIS & CO. where a balance in a moderate four figure balance is maintained.

Said memorandum indicates that GRAY, of the FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON, reported loans to DAVIS & CO. and its affiliates up to $6,000,000 if not more, said memorandum indicating that DIXON, c/o DIXON, BROKAW & McKEE, 120 Broadway, N.Y.C. knows both WILSON & DAVIS very well; that DIXON'S firm has been doing petroleum engineering work for DAVIS and his companies in the United States.

Said memorandum also indicates that GALLERT, HILBORN & RAPHAEL, attorneys, 521 Fifth Avenue, were the attorneys in the judgment of $1,577.00 obtained against WILSON; that they were succeeded by PABST & PABST. Said memorandum indicates that the INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY COMPANY of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has an outstanding judgment against DAVIS in the amount of $16,500.00

The files of PROUDFOOT'S COMMERCIAL AGENCY indicate that its report of February 24, 1938, on HENRY WARREN WILSON was furnished to the following:

F. HANDEL, ESQ., 165 Broadway, N Y C. (Personal) February 24, 1938.

CITIES SERVICE CO., April 19, 1938.

STANDARD OIL CO. OF N. J., April 27, 1938.

SINCLAIR REFINING CO. (Wollney) August 3, 1938.

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES, February 18, 1939

BANK OF NEW YORK, June 16, 1939 (By Hand)

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, July 31, 1939.

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MR. HARRY KADELL, Secretary of PROUDFOOT'S COMMERCIAL AGENCY, INC. furnished a printed copy of the judgment obtained in the Supreme Court of Judicature, Court of Appeals, Royal Courts of Justice, London, England, on Monday the 24th of April, 1939, in the matter of CARL FREDERICK GLAD, AKIESELSKABET GICA, Plaintiffs (Respondents) vs. WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS, HENRY WARREN WILSON and FOREIGN OIL COMPANY, INC. and CRUSADER PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD. A photostatic copy of this printed judgment is being made and pertinent information contained therein will be submitted in a later report. This judgment was rendered in favor of DAVIS and his interests.

MR. HARRY KADELL requested that the names of subscribers to the service of PROUDFOOT'S COMMERCIAL AGENCY, INC. be treated confidentially.

MR. KADELL requested agents to return to his office on September 22, 1939, when he will furnish a report containing more recent information on WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS, the report not having been completed on the evening of September 21, 1939, and that he desired to furnish a copy of this report instead of furnishing verbal information thereto.

SHERRILL SMITH, Vice President, CHASE NATIONAL BANK 18 Pine St., N.Y.C. informed agents Parkhurst and Genau, on September 21, 1939, that WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS is a "mystery" man in the oil business and that DAVIS apparently knows his way around the world; that it is rumored that DAVIS has worked outstandstill credits on Germany with the FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON, MASS. It is alleged that DAVIS has obtained loans through the OLD COLONY TRUST COMPANY of Boston, Mass., in the name of the NATIONAL CORPORATION OF PERU; that while DAVIS was in England, he made connections with LORD INVERFORTH and a MR. BURGESS, who are also associated with DAVIS in the PARENT PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, INC.; that DAVIS owned 50% of the interest; LORD INVERFORTH, 30%, and MR. BURGESS, 20%; that DAVIS' associates in DAVIS & CO. were, PIERCE D. WATSON, formerly Secretary of the GO GAS COMPANY, which owed the WARNER-QUINLAN CO. a large sum of money; AUSTIN TAYLOR, attorney, HENRY WILSON, Banker, London, England; W. V. ANSALL, Engineer; CARL F. Von CLEMM, Banker, Berlin, Germany; and JAMES LEE COFFMAN, attorney, with the law firm of PATERSON, EAGLE, GREENOUGH & DAY, 120 Broadway, N.Y.C.

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MR. SHERRILL SMITH requested agents to return to his office on September 22, 1939, when he will furnish information relative to the bank account of DAVIS with the CHASE NATIONAL BANK, and photostatic copies of news articles relative to DAVIS' activities in the oil business.

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In accordance with instructions received from Special Agent in Charge P. E. Foxworth, on September 21, 1939, Special Agents W. W. Fisher and L. G. Healey contacted W. B. L. REEHILL, Auditor, Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, 254 Broadway, New York, New York. Mr. REEHILL was advised that copies of telegrams sent by the following individuals and companies were desired:

William Rhodes Davis	30 Rockerfeller Plaza, New York
	2 Cooper Road, Scarsdale, New York
W. R. Davis	30 Rockerfeller Plaza
William R. Davis	30 Rockerfeller Plaza
W. Rhodes Davis	30 Rockerfeller Plaza
Davis & Company	30 Rockerfeller Plaza
Davis & Company, Inc.	30 Rockerfeller Plaza
Erna F. Wehrle	30 Rockerfeller Plaza
	30 East 68th Street, New York

Mr. REEHILL, after a check of the records of the company, advised that Davis and Company, Inc., Room 5438, 30 Rockerfeller Plaza, had an account with his firm. He advised that this account would disclose copies of all cables and telegrams sent by this firm and charged to this account. However, such cash messages as might have been sent by WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS or the company would not be revealed unless a check were made of each branch office, numbering 165 in the greater New York area, which would necessitate a tremendous amount of work. Mr. REEHILL declined to furnish an estimate of the time and expense involved until he had consulted with some other officials of the firm, and this estimate would not be forthcoming for several days. With reference to securing copies of these charged telegrams and cables, Agents were referred to JAMES C. PHELPS, Attorney in the Legal Department of the above firm, who requested that a subpoena be served calling for the production of the monthly bills paid by DAVIS AND COMPANY, INC., which would reflect sufficient information to prepare a proper subpoena for the actual messages. Such subpoena was served on Mr. REEHILL at approximately 1:30 p.m. on September 21, 1939.

The application for the account, in 1934, was signed by M. A. ROBERTS, Agent for Davis and Company, Inc, room 5438, 30 Rockerfeller Plaza, New York City. The officers of the firm were given as follows:

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President: W. R. DAVIS
Vice President: P. B. WATSON
Treasurer: W. W. VAN ALLEN
Secretary: LANGDON DEARBORN.

The above officers are directors of the firm, and the other directors are U. V. HANSELL, R. S. THORNBURG, and AUSTIN B. TAYLOR. References given were the First National Bank of Boston; the Chase National Bank, New York City, and an affiliated company, the Foreign Oil Company of Boston, Massachusetts, in which W. R. DAVIS was designated as a principal.

A letter from the Chase National Bank, New York City, dated December 7,1934, advised Postal Telegraph that Davis and Company, Inc. was not a depositor, but that as of November 17, 1934, an account had been opened with them in the name of Miss M. A. ROBERTS, Agent representing the Foreign Oil Company of Boston, affiliated with DAVIS AND COMPANY.

A letter from the Foreign Oil Company of Boston, sent by MORRIS GEYE, advised that credit be extended to this firm, and a letter from the First National Bank of Boston also reported favorably on DAVIS AND COMPANY, INC., but there was no indication that this company had an account at this bank.

Cards authorizing the use of the DAVIS AND COMPANY account were issued to the following individuals, who are undoubtedly connected with, or employees of, DAVIS AND COMPANY, INC.:

JOHN B. OHRT
E. S. WALNE
S. C. WOLLMAR
PAUL J. FLY
JOHN H. BURNS
ARTHUR W. HOBSON, JR.
Miss ERNA F. WEHRLE
W. S. POST, JR.
C. E. MacDONALD
W. F. FLANLEY
G. J. VANDERLYN
HENRY W. WILSON
P. B. WATSON

together with the officers of the firm. No addresses for the above individuals were shown.

Some correspondence in the account between Postal Telegraph

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and Davis and Company, Inc. reflected the name of WERNER C. VON CLEMM, of 565 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York. The correspondence related to a charge made to Davis and Company's account on a cable sent by this individual, who apparently was not authorized to send cables chargeable to this account. His connection with Davis and Company was not indicated.

There was also noted a tissue copy of a MacKay Radiogram dated January 3, 1939 sent collect from New Orleans to W. R. Davis at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, reading as follows: "Arrived in New Orleans. DONNELLY has no instructions. Please wire instructions", signed by "JOHN M. ROBINSON, LaSalle Hotel".

The Postal Telegraph records reflect no charge account for the following firms which are associated in some way with WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS:

Parent Petroleum Industries	30 Rockerfeller Plaza
Crusader Petroleum Co., Inc.	"
Crusader Petroleum Industries, Ltd.	"
Irish National Refineries, Ltd.	"
Tuspan Oil Co.	"
Crusader Petroleum Inc.	"
Fleethorn Oil Corp.	"
Euramex Oil Co., Inc.	"
Texas Crusader Oil Co., Inc.	"
Louisiana Crusader Oil Co., Inc.	"
Europdische Tanklager & Transport A. G.	"
Skanka-Tank A.G.	"
California Crusader Petroleum, Inc.	"

There was an account for the Crusader Oil Company of Elizabeth, New Jersey, the application filed in September, 1935, this applicant then being located at 30 Broad Street, New York, New York, moving to Elizabeth, New Jersey in February, 1939. The following are the officers of this firm:

President:	HOMER M. BERRY
Treasurer:	H. G. RICHARDSON
Comptroller:	JOHN RHESS.

The application was signed by JOHN RHESS.

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Mr. REEHILL immediately began to have the telegrams and cables filed by this account pulled. These originals are being turned over to this office and photostatic copies of same are being transmitted to the Bureau as they are pulled. Cables filed in the month of August, 1939, were quoted in a teletype to the Bureau.

With reference to incoming paid messages, Mr. REEHILL advised that the office at which the original message was filed would have the original filed message, and the office of destination, which makes the final delivery would have a tissue copy of the delivered message. The Rockerfeller Plaza address of Davis and Co. Inc. is served by a Postal Telegraph Company branch located at the RCA Building. WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS' Scarsdale, New York, residence is served by a Postal Telegraph branch at White Plains, New York, and 30 East 68th Street, New York City, the residence of ERNA F. WEHRLE, is served by the branch at 976 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York. In order to secure copies of incoming paid messages this would necessitate a check at these branch offices where these messages are filed from day to day.

With reference to the MacKay Radio and Telegraph Company, 67 Broad Street, New York, Mr. REEHILL advised that this firm was an affiliated company and had no branch offices. The firm transmits radiograms to foreign destinations. Postal Telegraph branches accept for delivery by MacKay radio messages which can be charged to the account of the customer. In this instance it was noted that all the messages filed in the month of August, 1939 by Davis and Company were destined for Europe, and were handled by MacKay Radio.

At this time no search is being made for cash messages transmitted or incoming messages, and the Bureau will be furnished photostatic copies of telegrams sent by Davis and Company, Inc. as soon as they are turned over to this office by the Postal Telegraph Company.

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Special Agent J. M. McGrath on September 21, 1939, was instructed by Special Agent in Charge Foxworth to check the "New York Times" index on WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS and ERNA F. WEHRLE, an associate of DAVIS.

There was no information in the "New York Times" index regarding ERNA F. WEHRLE.

The chronological outline of the news items concerning WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS follows:

NEW YORK TIMES
August 21, 1928

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS and BERTRAM T. LEE were the representatives of N. I. BENEDUN and J. C. TREES, capitalists of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in Lima, Peru, where LEE and DAVIS were negotiating for the construction of a railroad, an irrigation system and colonization programs and other commitments for concessions in which the investment required was thirty-five million dollars.

LEE was reported to have been in Peru for twenty years previously to this date. DAVIS was reported as former Chief Engineer of the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad during its construction. He was also reported in this news item to have helped SIR JAMES CURRIE organize the British-American Petroleum Company.

DAVIS subsequently became the sole prepresentative of BENEDUN and TREES in this project in Lima, Peru which was known as the Yurimaguas Railroad Project, the purpose of which was to develop the mineral fields of Lima and effect colonization by European immigrants.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE
December 28, 1928

BERTRAM LEE was representing the BENEDUN TREES OIL COMPANY, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and opening a 12,500,000 acre Peruvian oil concession. He had arrived in Lima, Peru with W. R. DAVIS, and a group of New York and Boston bankers.

In addition to the construction of a railroad and colonization of the area with European immigrants, the plan also included the building of highways.

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NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE
August 5, 1929

It was set out in a Lima, Peru news dispatch that W. R. DAVIS and H. WILSON, representing a New York Syndicate, and SIR JAMES T. CURRIE, K.C.B., were promoting the Yurimaguas Railroad Project in Peru. This news item stated that the financing had been attempted previously be BERTRAM T. LEE, a New York and Pittsburgh promoter, but that his attempts had failed.

The concession carried with it exploratory rights over ten million hectares of potential oil lands and five million hectares of land grants in perpetuity, and other mineral rights.

NEW YORK TIMES
April 7, 1938

W. R. DAVIS reported as 50 years old confirmed a report that he had furnished 1,080,000 barrels of Mexican oil to Germany in exchange for petroleum pipes and machinery.

DAVIS said the oil was going to a plant of his company in Hamburg, Germany. He said he had barges within Germany to move the oil within the Nazi state.

NEW YORK TIMES
April 10, 1938

News item that FRANCIS W. RICKETT, a British promoter, and BERNARD E. SMITH, New York broker, were also dickering for expropriated oil in Mexico. This item mentioned the fact that WILLIAM R. DAVIS was also interested in expropriated oil.

NEW YORK TIMES
July 7, 1938

W. F. FLANLEY is WILLIAM R. DAVIS' representative in Mexico City, Mexico, and he stated on July 6, 1938 that DAVIS had boughtten million dollars worth of oil from the Mexican Government for sale to Fascist markets, notably Germany, Italy, and Scandinavia. Payment was to be made for this oil 60% in machinery and 40% in cash, the machines to come from Germany and Sweden, rayon to come from Italy. His firm was reported as W. R. DAVIS & COMPANY, of New York, Boston, and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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NEW YORK TIMES
July 10, 1938

W. R. DAVIS was reported to be in Stockholm, Sweden planning to build an oil refinery.

NEW YORK TIMES
July 16, 1938

On this date W. R. DAVIS withdrew from the British parent petroleum company, in which he was a heavy stockholder, in view of his heavy German oil connections.

NEW YORK TIMES
August 24, 1938

Investors sue W. R. DAVIS to obtain title to the Scarsdale estate of his wife at White Plains, New York. For nine years investors in the defunct DAVIS MACONE COMPANY of Tulsa, Oklahoma have pursued DAVIS around the world in an attempt to collect $169,123 judgment.

NEW YORK TIMES
September 22, 1938

Reported a deal whereby the PANHANDLE PRODUCING AND REFINING COMPANY would buy $600,370 worth of foreign steel from DAVIS & CO., INC., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. This was disclosed in a listing statement made public by the New York Stock Exchange. The listing statement showed that 253,450 shares of $1 common stock of the PANHANDLE COMPANY were to be issued to further the acquisition of tubular steel goods of "foreign origin", which tubular steel had a value of July 30, 1938 in the bonded warehouse in Houston, Texas, of $600,370. Of the shares to be issued, DAVIS & CO. INC. would receive 235,439 and L. S. CARTER & CO. INC., 52 Wall Street would receive 18,011 for acting in the capacity of broker for the deal.

NEW YORK TIMES
October 18, 1938

News item from London, England stated that W. R.

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DAVIS was convicted in London of conspiracy to defraud a Danish company in an oil trial at which time HENRY WARREN WILSON, his associate was also found guilty.

W. R. DAVIS, an independent oil operator who was reported to have sold expropriated oil to Germany, Italy and Sweden, was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud a Danish company in the Kings Bench Division of the High Court. Justice LEWIS described DAVIS as an unscrupulous and ruthless financier whose testimony he could not accept, and added, "I do not accept him as a witness of the truth."

DAVIS at this time reported himself as president of the Foreign Oil Company, Boston, Massachusetts and WILSON reported himself as manager of the Crusader Petroleum Industries, Ltd., of London, England.

The action in this case was brought by CARL FREDERICK GLAD, owner of Aktieselskabet Gica of Copenhagen, Sweden.

NEW YORK TIMES
April 25, 1939

News item from London, England reported that three oil men: W. R. DAVIS, HENRY WARREN WILSON and G. J. VANDER LYN by anonymous decision of the Court of Appeals were cleared of all charges of conspiracy, fraud and breach of contract in the matter of an action instituted by C. F. GLAD. In this connection the Court praised the personal integrity of DAVIS.

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM
October 7, 1938

An article by WINSTON MURRILL reports that WILLIAM R. DAVIS is an oil operator of innumerable court actions with judgment after judgment of bankruptcy in bulk, of profits in bulk, who started as a candy and newspaper vender on a railroad train. He, at the present time is reported to have an office on the 54th floor at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. He is reported to sell oil to Fascist nations. In the way of a history of W. R. DAVIS, this article sets out that in 1913 he organized the Best Test Oil & Gas Company at Muskogee, Oklahoma. In 1915 he organized the

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Gotham Mining and Mineral Company of Joplin, Missouri.

In 1917 he organized the MALCONA ZINC COMPANY.

In 1917 he joined the army.

In 1920 he was an oil lease broker in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In 1920 he was also a partner of E. V. SIMONS in drilling oil and gas wells.

In 1922 he formed the MALCONA PETROLEUM COMPANY.

In 1922 he formed the DAVIS MALCONA COMPANY which company failed in 1924.

In 1929 a revolution in Peru killed a railroad concession that he had in that country.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE
December 10, 1938

A news item from Mexico City, Mexico set out that WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS completed on that date his seventeen million dollar barter deal in which Mexican oil was to be exchanged for German cash, machinery and supplies, and that the terms were 40% cash and 60% credit. This item further set out that DAVIS had completed a ten million barrel oil deal for Mexico earlier in that year, 1938.

NEW YORK TIMES
December 10, 1938

News item that one of the terms of the seventeen million dollar W. R. DAVIS barter deal was a provision of the Mexican Government which supplied oil to German vessels.

There was also an item that SHERWOOD JOHNSON, Rye, New York, had 40,000 acres of mechanized farm land taken from him by the Mexican Government and divided among the peasants. There was no connection with DAVIS in this article by JOHNSON but it is believed he may possibly be a source of information concerning this individual.

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NEW YORK TIMES
January 1, 1939

News item regarding deal whereby the PANHANDLE PRODUCING & REFINING COMPANY purchased $600,370 worth of foreign steel from DAVIS & CO. INC., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. In connection with the 235,439 shares of stock in the PANHANDLE PRODUCING & REFINING COMPANY to be given to DAVIS & CO. INC. for the foreign steel purchased by the PANHANDLE COMPANY, these shares were to be issued in the name of SKELTON & CO. as nominally of the First National Bank of Boston.

It was further set out that these particular shares would then be pledged at the bank to secure certain indebtednesses of DAVIS & CO. INC. In other words, SKELTON & CO. is a corporation owned by DAVIS & CO. INC.

NEW YORK TIMES
January 19, 1939

This article set out that between January 1 and 16, 1939, seven ships left Tampico, Mexico for Germany under consignment by W. R. DAVIS of New York, bearing 722,087 barrels of oil from expropriated American and British companies. This oil was consigned to ERNST JUNG, Hamburg, Germany, who, it is noted, acts as agent for the German Navy.

DAVIS was also mentioned in this article as arranging sale of Mexican oil to the Italian Navy. DAVIS at the time was dealing in Mexico with EDUARDO SUAREZ, the Mexican secretary of Finance.

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM
February 23, 1939

and

NEW YORK TIMES
February 24, 1939

These articles set out that the Mexican Government had rejected a proposal to purchase 17 German planes in a barter deal for oil. W. R. DAVIS, New York oil man who, two months ago,

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negotiated a seventeen million dollar oil barter deal between Germany and Mexico was reported on that day as registering at a Mexico City hotel where a representative of a Junkers Aircraft firm was also registered, the latter's name being H. H. HAGERMANN, the inference being that DAVIS was in consultation with HAGERMANN.

Mr. DAVIS, it was reported, explained that he had bought the planes from Germany for the Spanish Loyalists but that the deal had fallen through after he purchased the planes.

NEW YORK TIMES
February 28, 1939

Special item from Mexico City,- With reference to planes that Mexico was to build or on planes in connection with Canadians. There was a notation in this item which apparently had no connection with it which set out that less than a fortnight ago W. R. DAVIS who was behind the big barter deals on gas tried unsuccessfully to trade seventeen Junker planes to the Mexican Government for five million dollars worth of oil from expropriated companies.

NEW YORK SUN
February 27, 1939

The newspaper article written by LEMUEL F. PARTON reported WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS as an ex-candy butcher on the Texas and Pacific Railroad now had ownership to 17 Junker airplanes. PARTON reported DAVIS as a fast "in-and-outer in intercontinental oil, airplane, and railroad financing deals.

DAVIS was unable to barter the planes for Mexican oil. In this connection, a statement was made that the planes were bought from Germany for the Spanish Loyalists but that the deal had been wrecked with the Rebel victory at Barcelona, Spain. This breezy newspaper article stated that DAVIS was not unlike SIR BASIL ZAHAROFF who was also engaged in planetary enterprise.

It set out that DAVIS attended Stark College, Montgomery, Alabama. He was reported in this article as a Reich Mexico middleman with offices in New York and Boston.

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NEW YORK TIMES
July 30, 1939

This news article emanated from Washington, D. C. and was entitled "Attack on Guffey stirs Senate Row". This item set out that Senator BRIDGES, New Hampshire, linked Senator GUFFEY, Pennsylvania to the sale of oil from seized properties in Mexico. The accused Senator referred to clippings read on the floor of the Senate as "100% false and a malicious character-destroying lie." BRIDGES said high officials of this administration had "encouraged and even recommended the establishment of Communism in Mexico" and that this had led to the expropriation of American and British properties in Mexico. The newspaper clippings set out that Senator GUFFEY made a trip to Mexico City in 1937 before the seizure of the property at which time he was accompanied by WALTER A. JONES, a Pittsburgh oil man and that Mr. JONES was associated with W. R. DAVIS, a free lance oil operator, the latter being credited with disposing of oil for Mexican interests.

Messrs. GUFFEY and JONES, the newspaper clipping set out, conferred after the oil property seizure with EDUARDO SUAREZ, the Mexican Minister of Finance in a Washington hotel.

This particular news item was no more specific in the charges against GUFFEY than set out above.

NEW YORK TIMES
August 7, 1939

This item set out that the Mexican Government was sellingexpropriated oil to W. R. DAVIS at 46 to 54 cents a barrel or at approxima tely half the world price.

An observation was made by the writer of this article to the effect that the Mexican Government, moreover did not receive even this low price in real money; but actually received about half the price in German goods. This information had been obtained from the Institute of Economic and Social Studies and apparently was obtained in Mexico City, Mexico from which city the news item had originated.

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Due to the present nature of this investigation in the New York Field Division, in that several agents are actively engaged at present conducting further investigation, no undeveloped leads are being set forth at the present time. The Bureau is being advised periodically by teletype of the various developments as they arise.

P E N D I N G

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

AR:COH

September 25, 1939

Time: 2:45 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS;
et al ; ESPIONAGE

Mr. Newby called and advised that the Library is requesting for the return of the Congressional Record which was obtained by the Washington Field and sent to the Bureau last Friday.

Mr. Newby also advised that the State Department is holding a number of photostats pending the receipt of a letter bearing the Director's signature. I told Mr. Newby to call Mr. Carson to see if he has prepared such a letter. I also advised Mr. Newby I thought the photostats would be made available without such a letter since they were prepared at the instance of the State Department.

Mr. Newby also was instructed to check with Mr. Carson to see if he has finished with the Congressional Record.

Respectfully,

A. ROSEN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-23-98 BY SP2 alc/mg

RECORDED

65-1168-16
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 26 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy

SEP 23 4 25 PM '39
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SEPTEMBER 25, 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
BOSTON SEP 26 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OF INFORMATION

Initial Report

Wm R. Davis.

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MILLION DOLLAR PRODUCTION LOAN ON THIS DEAL. SUBJECT REPORTED TO HAVE A NEW REFINERY IN GERMANY AND ONE IN ENGLAND. REPORTED TO HAVE OBTAINED HIS MONOPOLY ON PETROLEUM SALES IN THE IRISH FREE STATE BY AGREEING TO RETURN HALF OF HIS PROFITS TO THAT STATE. FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT OBTAINED FROM CHASE NATIONAL BANK,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-27-98 BY SP2 alc/TH

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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SEPTEMBER 25, 1939

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 26 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TWO

WJH:ETA
65-128

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU AND BOSTON

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS, ESPIONAGE. FOLLOWING DIGEST OF INFORMATION REGARDING SUBJECT CONTAINED IN RINEHART'S TULSA EDITION OF AUGUST SIXTEENTH, NINETEEN THIRTYSEVEN. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON HAD A LOT OF BAD FOREIGN SECURITY ON HAND. SUBJECT MADE DEAL WITH THEM AND WENT TO GERMANY TO TRADE FOR BANK ON BARTER BASIS. SUBJECT OBTAINED ABSOLUTE MONOPOLY FOR SALE OF PETROLEUM AND OIL PRODUCTS IN IRISH FREE STATE AND CERTAIN VALUABLE CONNECTIONS IN GERMANY WHERE HE BECAME PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH HITLER. IT IS SAID HE RECEIVED THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS FROM HITLER AND MUSSOLINI TO FINANCE HIS OIL OPERATIONS. IT IS EASY TO SEE HOW HE MIGHT INTEREST HITLER IN AN OIL VENTURE SINCE HIS FINANCIAL OPERATIONS MUST HAVE TAKEN HIM INTO THE DEUTSCHE BANK IN BERLIN. CRUSADERS PETROLEUM, INC., WHICH IS SUBJECT'S OKLAHOMA OPERATING CONCERN, PURCHASED ALL STOCK OF FLEETBORN OIL CORPORATION OF ADA, OKLAHOMA FOR SLIGHTLY IN EXCESS OF FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. H. W. WILSON IS PRESIDENT OF THIS NEW FIRM. BACK OF THE FLEETBORN DEAL IS THE FACT THAT THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON AND THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OKLAHOMA CITY MADE A TWO MILLION DOLLAR PRODUCTION LOAN ON THIS DEAL. SUBJECT REPORTED TO HAVE A NEW REFINERY IN GERMANY AND ONE IN ENGLAND. REPORTED TO HAVE OBTAINED HIS MONOPOLY ON PETROLEUM SALES IN THE IRISH FREE STATE BY AGREEING TO RETURN HALF OF HIS PROFITS TO THAT STATE. FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT OBTAINED FROM CHASE NATIONAL BANK,

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU AND BOSTON

NEW YORK CITY. W. R. DAVIS & COMPANY OPENED ACCOUNT ON JUNE FOURTH, NINETEEN THIRTYSIX. AVERAGE BALANCE DURING NINETEEN THIRTYNINE FIFTYTHREE HUNDRED DOLLARS. PRESENT CREDIT BALANCE AMOUNTS TO THIRTYNINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNIRED NINETY DOLLARS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM PROUDFOOTS COMMERCIAL AGENCY. IN GERMANY PARENT PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD. OWNED AND OPERATED LARGE REFINERY, WHILE IN SWEDEN, DENMARK AND FINLAND, CRUSADERS PETROLEUM, INC. HAD MAINLY STORAGE PLANTS. RECENTLY DAVIS & COMPANY WHICH HAD A LARGE INTEREST IN THE PARENT PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES, LTD., WITHDREW FROM THE LATTER AND MADE EXCHANGES OF PROPERTY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DIVEST ITSELF OF ITS INTEREST IN THAT CORPORATION. DAVIS & COMPANY REPORTED CLOSELY ALLIED WITH LORD INVERFORTH, BRITISH INDUSTRIALIST, AND TOGETHER OWN LARGE ACREAGE IN MEXICAN OIL FIELD POSO RICO. IN THE CAPACITY OF BROKER, DAVIS & COMPANY HANDLES CONSIDERABLE OIL FOR THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IN TWO CONTRACTS, ONE INVOLVING TEN MILLION BARRELS AND THE OTHER SEVENTEEN MILLION BARRELS, WHICH WERE SOLD BY SUBJECT TO GERMANY, ITALY AND SWEDEN. THE OPERATIONS OF DAVIS & COMPANY HAVE BEEN FINANCED LARGELY THROUGH A BOSTON BANK, WHICH HAS AT TIMES EXTENDED ACCOMMODATIONS RUNNING WELL INTO SEVEN FIGURES. FOLLOWING DIGEST OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NEW YORK CREDIT EXCHANGE. WERNER C. VON CLEMM, ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT, MARRIED DAUGHTER OF HARRY T. S. GREEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CITY

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

Transmit the following Teletype message to

BUREAU & BOSTON

BANK. VON CLEMM CAME TO USA IN NINETEEN TWENTYTWO, NATURALIZED CITIZEN. DIRECTOR OF DAVIS & COMPANY; ALSO CONNECTED WITH PIONEER IMPORT CORPORATION OF N.Y.C. WHICH IMPORTS MERCHANDISE FROM GERMANY SELLING SAME IN USA. VON CLEMM ALSO REPRESENTATIVE HARDY & COMPANY, INTERNATIONAL BANKERS. FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING WALTER A. JONES OBTAINED FROM THE GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY. JONES REPORTED IN NINETEEN THIRTYTWO TO BE A RECEIVER FOR THE WAYNE COAL COMPANY OF PITTSBURGH, ONE OF THE BENADUM-TREES INTERESTS; WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, AND IS INTERESTED IN THE UNITEDSTATES SHEET & WINDOW GLASS COMPANY AT MORGANTOWN, WESTVIRGINIA. IN NOVEMBER NINETEEN THIRTYSIX, JONES STATED HE HAD LOANED THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ON A DEMAND NOTE. BANK ACCOUNT OF JONES AT GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY BEING REVIEWED.

FOXWORTH

CC: BUREAU
CC: BOSTON

Approved _____ Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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CHC:JDiF

September 23, 1939.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with an official investigation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it is requested that such information as may be contained in the files of the State Department relating to one Walter A. Jones, who is reported to occupy offices at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D. C., be made available to this Bureau. Mr. Jones is reported to reside at 2325 Wyoming Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

It will be greatly appreciated if this matter can be handled as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[redacted]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E.
Mr. C.
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Miss Leeter
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Miss Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 23 1939 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED 65-1168-17

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 26 1939

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TELETYPE

CLASSIFIED BY 1509 DPS/df
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
4-18-98

[DECODED COPY]

FBI NEW YORK CITY 9-26-39 3-05PM ERL

DIRECTOR

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1CLK/JAC
ON 4-20-01

WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS ESPIONAGE. FOLLOWING DIGEST OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN CONFIDENTIAL FILES OF SHELL OIL COMPANY REGARDING SUBJECT. SUMMARY OF EXPORT SHIPMENTS: W R DAVIS CO AUGUST NINETEEN THIRTY NINE, ALL SHIPMENTS DESTINED FOR GERMANY, IS AS FOLLOWS---CRUDES, NINE THREE TWO FOUR SEVEN BBL PANUCO, THREE SIX SEVEN EIGHT THREE BBL POSA RICA, THREE TWO NAUGHT NINE TWO BBL NARANJOS, TWO FOUR SEVEN FIVE SIX SIX BBL GASOLINE, THREE NINE THREE SEVEN TWO SEVEN BBL GAS OIL, EIGHT SEVEN TWO FIVE BBL KEROSENE, TOTAL PRICE EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FOURTEEN DOLLARS THREE CENTS.

RECORDED & INDEXED
65-1166-18
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 27 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SUMMARY OF EXPORT SHIPMENTS SAME ACCOUNT YEAR NINETEEN THIRTY NINE AS FOLLOWS--- CRUDES, ASPHALT NINE ONE ONE NINE POINT NINE TWO FOUR MET TONS, TWO NAUGHT TWO NAUGHT NINE NAUGHT TWO BBL PANUCO, SEVEN NINE NAUGHT EIGHT THREE ONE BBL POSA RICA, THREE TWO NAUGHT NINE TWO BBL NARANJOS, ONE FIVE THREE FOUR THREE SIX NINE BBL FUEL OIL, ONE TWO ONE EIGHT SEVEN NAUGHT THREE BBL GASOLINE, NINE ONE SIX SIX TWO NAUGHT BBL GAS OIL, TWO ONE THREE THREE TWO BBL KEROSENE, NINE SIX SEVEN NINE BBL BUNKER GAS OIL. TOTAL ACCOUNT NINETEEN THIRTY NINE AMOUNTS MCLFIVE MILLION FIVE TWO EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS THIRTY TWO CENTS.

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Classified by 2909 DPS/df
Exempt from GDS Category
Date of Declassification Indefinate
4-11-78

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PAGE TWO.

SUMMARY ACCOUNT MARCH NINETEEN, NINETEEN THIRTYEIGHT TO SEPTEMBER FIRST, NINETEEN THIRTY NINE GRAND TOTALS AS FOLLOWS.- ONE THREE FOUR NAUGHT TWO POINT NAUGHT EIGHT FIVE ASPHALT MET TONS, TWO FIVE TWO SIX NAUGHT FIVE SEVEN BBL PANUCO, ONE EIGHT NINE SEVEN THREE FOUR SEVEN BBL POSA RICA, ONE ONE EIGHT NINE EIGHT SIX BBL NARANJOS, TWO FOUR TWO FIVE SIX ONE EIGHT BBL FUEL OIL, TWO [redacted] EIGHT THREE SIX THREE EIGHT FIVE BBL GASOLINE, ONE NINE THREE EIGHT NINE NAUGHT ONE BBL GAS OIL, ONE TWO SEVEN SEVEN THREE SEVEN BBL KEROSENE, TWO EIGHT ONE FIVE FIVE EIGHT BBL ASPHALT RESIDUE, FOUR EIGHT THREE FIVE NAUGHT BBL BUNKER GAS OIL, FOUR FOUR ONE TWO EIGHT BBL BUNKER FUEL OIL SEVEN ONE SEVEN NINE BBL WHITE SPIRIT, GRAND TOTAL THIS PERIOD ELEVEN MILLION, THREE FOUR EIGHT THOUSAND NINETY SIX DOLLARS NINETY FIVE CENTS. SOURCE OF INFORMATION REQUESTS SAME BE KEPT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE. FURTHER PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL HISTORY OF SUBJECT OBTAINED FROM SAME SOURCE. REPORTED HAVE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH HERR FUNK A CLOSE SUBORDINATE OF GOERING. MAY NINETEEN THIRTY EIGHT SUBJECT FOUND GUILTY FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION TULSA OKLAHOMA NUMEROUS OTHER SUITS AND JUDGMENTS NOTED. IN SEPTEMBER, TWENTYEIGHT, BENEDUM AND TREES OF PITTSBURGH SENT SUBJECT [redacted] TO PERU TO INVESTIGATE

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PAGE THREE

CONCESSION OF BERTRAM T LEE WHO HAD INTERESTED THEM IN IT AND SUBJECT RETURNED WITH CONCESSION FOR HIMSELF. NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS RE SUBJECT REFLECT HE CLOSED ONE MILLION DOLLAR DEAL ON SEPTEMBER THIRTEENTH LAST PURCHASING POTENTIAL OIL LAND IN STARR COUNTY TEXAS FROM TRANSWESTERN OIL CO OF SAN ANTONIO AND THE D D OIL CO AND DEE DAVENPORT OF MISSION TEXAS. DEAL NEGOTIATED BY JOHN H BURNS, AUSTIN B TAYLOR AND PAUL FLY. ONE ARTICLE OF SEPTEMBER EIGHT LAST REFLECTS THAT MEXICO CANCELED A TWENTY MILLION DOLLAR BARTER DEAL WITH SUBJECT WHO HAD BEEN SHIPPING SEVENTY FIVE PERCENT OF HIS OIL TO GERMANY. ARTICLE OF AUGUST TWELFTH LAST REFLECTS SUBJECT RETURNED TO MEXICO WITH THREE GERMAN TRADE EXPERTS TO SPUR GERMAN TRADE THERE. ARTICLE BY MARQUIS W CHILDS IN ST LOUIS POST DISPATCH OF JUNE TWELFTH LAST STATES SENATOR JOSEPH R GUFFEY AND CHARLES ALVIN JONES [redacted] UNSUCCESSFUL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA INDIRECTLY INTERESTED IN MEXICAN OIL QUESTION

FOXWORTH

END

OK FBI WASHINGTO N DC CFD

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